

Sep 29, 2018

Image Acquisition on the Odyssey Fc Imager



Forked from [DNA Separation and Detection on Agarose Gels/ In-Gel Pre-Staining Protocol](#)



In 1 collection

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.guubwww>

LI-COR Biosciences¹

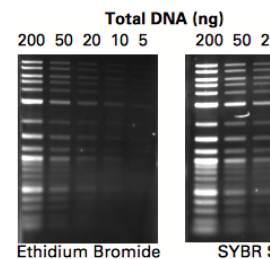
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Protocol Citation: LI-COR Biosciences 2018. Image Acquisition on the Odyssey Fc Imager. **protocols.io**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.guubwww>

Manuscript citation:

1. Waring MJ., (1965) J Mol Biol. 13(1):269-82 Complex formation between ethidium bromide and nucleic acids
2. LePecq JB, Paoletti C., (1967) J Mol Biol. 27(1):87-106 A fluorescent complex between ethidium bromide and nucleic acids. Physical-chemical characterization

LI-COR Biosciences, (2010) Syto 60 Staining of Nucleic Acids in Gels

LI-COR Biosciences, (2011) How to Adjust the Lookup Tables in Image Studio for an Optimal Image Display

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: December 22, 2016

Last Modified: September 29, 2018

Protocol Integer ID: 4724

Keywords: other visible fluorescent nucleic acid stain, safe dna stain, noise ratio for nucleic acid detection, maximum fluorescence emission wavelength of sybr safe, image acquisition on the odyssey fc imager, nucleic acid detection, nucleic acid stain, odyssey fc imager, odyssey fc imaging system, ethidium bromide detection, emission wavelengths of ethidium bromide, compatible with the odyssey fc imager, other nucleic acid, emission spectra of each stain, exceeding ethidium bromide detection, popular dna stain, other visible fluorescent, maximum fluorescence emission wavelength, protocols for ethidium bromide, image acquisition, dna, ethidium bromide, such as ethidium bromide, odyssey fc 600 channel, emission wavelength, sybr safe, nm higher than the maximum excitation wavelength, stain, close to the maximum excitation wavelength, excitation light, maximum excitation wavelength, sensitive gel documentation option, odyssey fc, emission spectra

Abstract

The Odyssey Fc Imager, with 600 channel capabilities, can image agarose gels stained with popular DNA stains, such as ethidium bromide and SYBR Safe DNA stain, with sub-nanogram sensitivity. The Odyssey Fc Imager contains a 532 nm diffuse source with an excitation maximum of 520 nm and a detection maximum of 600 nm. These instrument parameters are within the range of the excitation and emission wavelengths of ethidium bromide (Ex/Em = 302 & 518/605 nm) and other visible fluorescent nucleic acid stains and provide a sensitive gel documentation option.

SYBR Safe DNA stain (Ex/Em = 502/530 nm) has also been tested on the Odyssey Fc Imager (using the 600 channel) with sensitivities exceeding ethidium bromide detection. The maximum fluorescence emission wavelength of SYBR Safe is very close to the maximum excitation wavelength. However, the Odyssey Fc 600 channel collects excitation light at a wavelength 50 nm higher than the maximum excitation wavelength of SYBR Safe. These instrument properties decrease the background and improve the signal-to-noise ratio for nucleic acid detection.

Specific instructions are given in this protocols for ethidium bromide and SYBR Safe use. Other nucleic acid binding stains may also be compatible with the Odyssey Fc Imager. Please check the excitation and emission spectra of each stain.

Developed for: Odyssey Fc Imaging System

Attachments



[AppNote_OdyFc_Imagin.](#)

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828KB

Guidelines

I. Introduction

The Odyssey Fc Imager, with 600 channel capabilities, can image agarose gels stained with popular DNA stains, such as ethidium bromide and SYBR Safe DNA stain, with sub-nanogram sensitivity. The Odyssey Fc Imager contains a 532 nm diffuse source with an excitation maximum of 520 nm and a detection maximum of 600 nm. These instrument parameters are within the range of the excitation and emission wavelengths of ethidium bromide (Ex/Em = 302 & 518/605 nm^{1,2}) and other visible fluorescent nucleic acid stains and provide a sensitive gel documentation option.

SYBR Safe DNA stain (Ex/Em = 502/530 nm) has also been tested on the Odyssey Fc Imager (using the 600 channel) with sensitivities exceeding ethidium bromide detection. The maximum fluorescence emission wavelength of SYBR Safe is very close to the maximum excitation wavelength. However, the Odyssey Fc 600 channel collects excitation light at a wavelength 50 nm higher than the maximum excitation wavelength of SYBR Safe. These instrument properties decrease the background and improve the signal-to-noise ratio for nucleic acid detection.

Specific instructions are given in this technical note for ethidium bromide and SYBR Safe use. There are a variety of commercial DNA stains that may be appropriate for fluorescent imaging with the Odyssey Fc 600 channel. SYBR Green I (Life Technologies), GelStar (FMC), Gel Red™ (Biotium), Gel Green™ (Biotium) and Nancy-520 (Sigma) stains have also been tested at LI-COR. Other nucleic acid binding stains may also be compatible with the Odyssey Fc Imager. Please check the excitation and emission spectra of each stain.

The Odyssey Fc Imager is also equipped with two infrared channels (700 and 800) and a chemiluminescent detection channel. Nucleic acid detection in the 700 channel is achieved with Syto® 60 stain, a cell-permeant cyanine dye. A detailed protocol is available for the use of Syto 60 with the Odyssey and Aeries family of imagers (LI-COR, Syto 60 Staining of Nucleic Acids in Gels).

Note: Any questions regarding specific properties of the DNA binding stains should be directed to the representative vendors listed in this technical guide.

II. DNA Separation and Detection on Agarose Gels

A. Suggested Materials

This section is intended as a guideline; other materials may be substituted.

High Grade or Molecular Biology Grade agarose
(Low melting-point agarose may increase the degree of speckling on the digital image.) **OR**

E-Gel® Pre-cast agarose gels from Life Technologies (Ethidium Bromide, SYBR® Safe, or Clear gel types)



1X TAE or TBE buffer

Ethidium Bromide (EtBr, 10 mg/mL solution) **OR**

SYBR Safe DNA stain (10,000X concentrate in DMSO)

Gel tank and casting tray for running submersion gels

Power supply

Note: *Dispose of all gel and buffer solutions in accordance with the regulations of your facility.*

B. In-Gel Pre-Staining Protocol

See 'STEPS'

C. Post-Electrophoresis Staining Protocol

See 'STEPS'

D. E-Gel Pre-Cast Agarose Gels

The E-Gel pre-cast agarose gels containing Ethidium Bromide or SYBR Safe are compatible with digital imaging on the Odyssey Fc Imager using the 600 channel. The clear versions of the E-Gel gels allow for post-staining with a DNA binding stain of your choice. Follow the manufacturer's protocols for sample preparation and gel electrophoresis parameters.

IV. Results - Ethidium Bromide and SYBR Safe

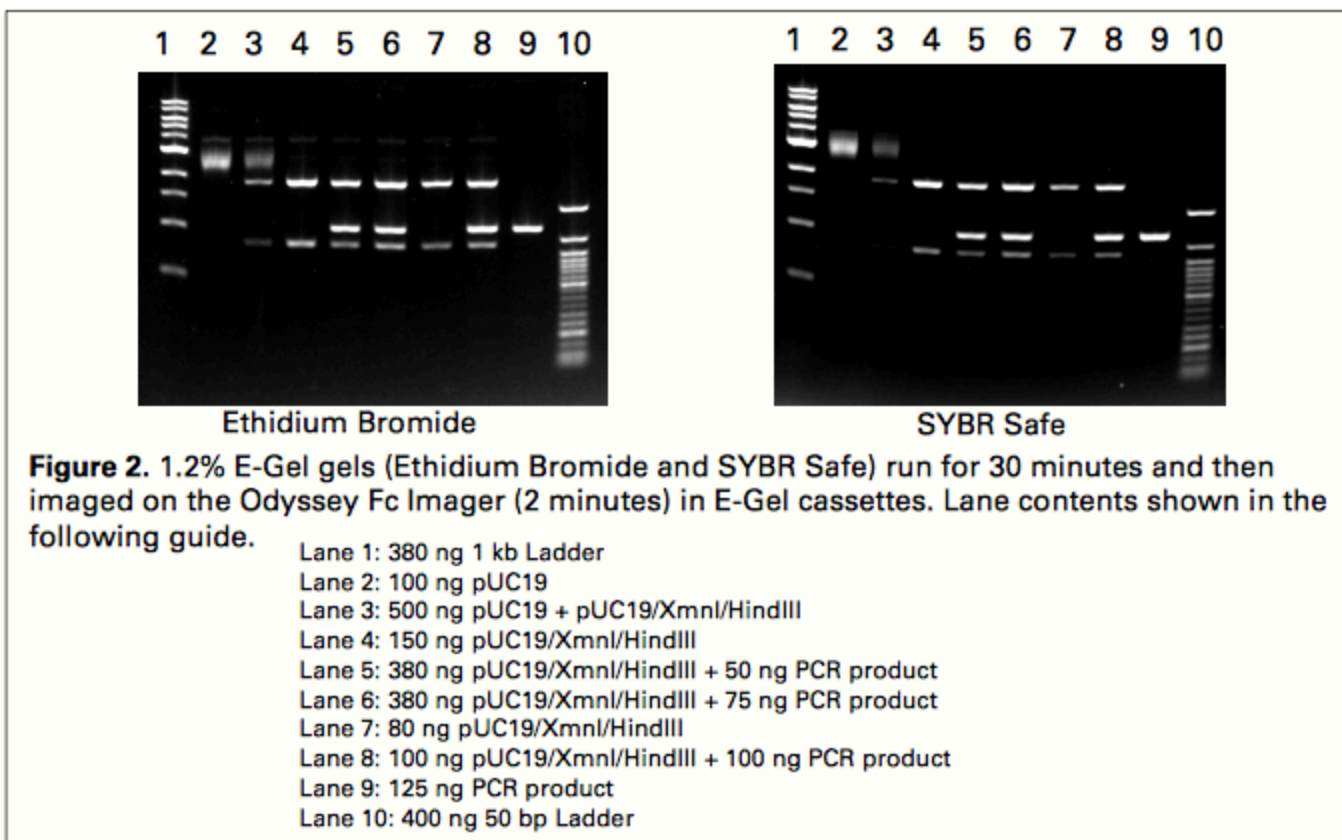
A. Sensitivity of the Odyssey Fc Imager, 600 Channel

The images in Figure 1 were prepared following the post-electrophoresis staining protocol on page 4 with Ethidium Bromide and SYBR® Safe DNA stains. These images show the sensitivity of the Odyssey Fc Imager.



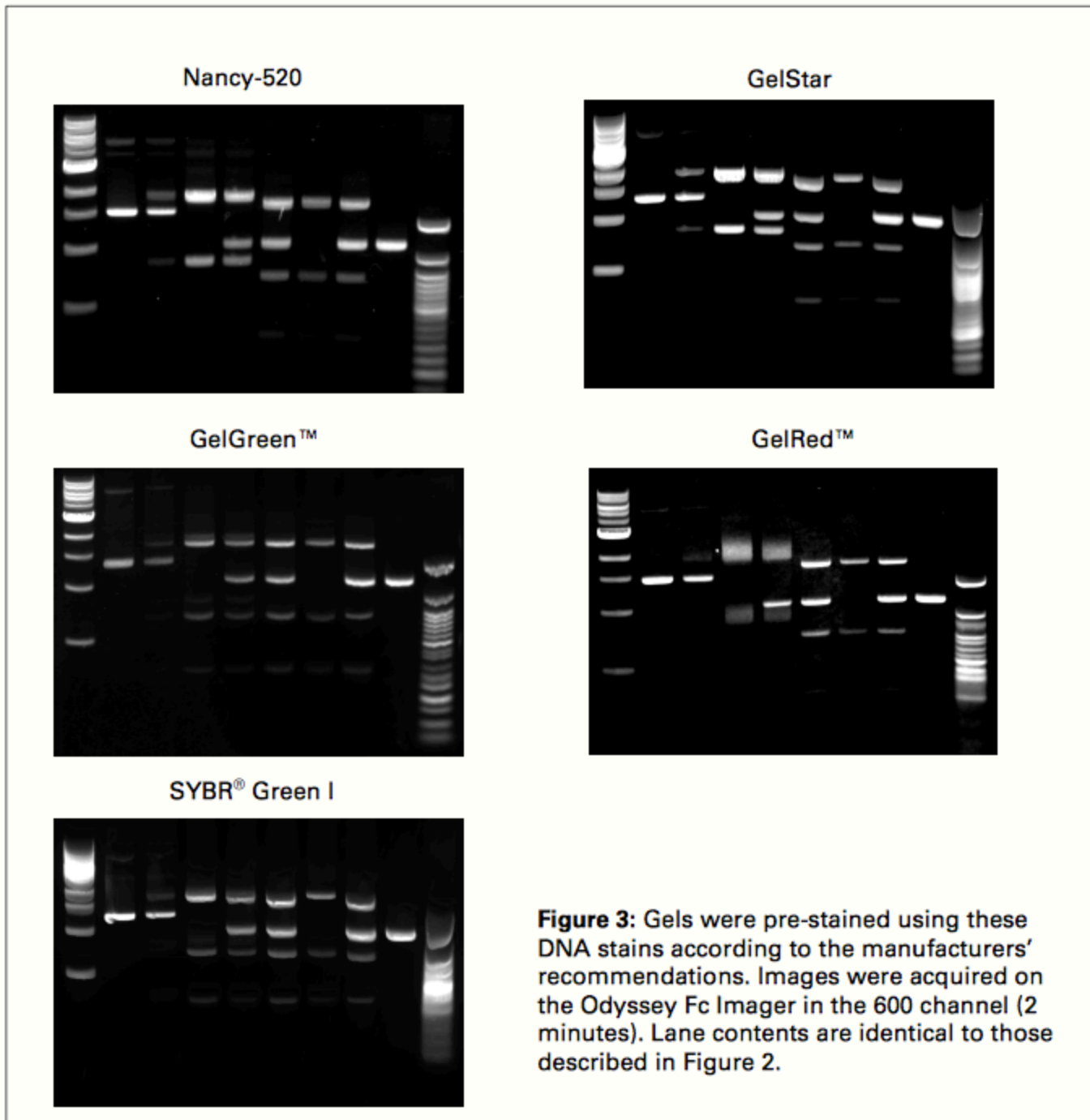
B. DNA Samples - Plasmid Digests and PCR Products

DNA samples were loaded on 1.2% E-Gel® gels (Ethidium Bromide and SYBR Safe), electrophoresed for 30 minutes, and imaged on the Odyssey Fc Imager (2 minutes) in E-Gel cassettes.



C. Examples of Other DNA Stains

The same DNA samples from Figure 2 were loaded on 1.2% agarose gels pre-stained with the DNA stains as specified. Images were acquired on the Odyssey Fc Imager using the 600 channel.





V. References

1. Waring MJ., (1965) J Mol Biol. 13(1):269-82 Complex formation between ethidium bromide and nucleic acids
 2. LePecq JB, Paoletti C., (1967) J Mol Biol. 27(1):87-106 A fluorescent complex between ethidium bromide and nucleic acids. Physical-chemical characterization
- LI-COR Biosciences, (2010) Syto 60 Staining of Nucleic Acids in Gels
- LI-COR Biosciences, (2011) How to Adjust the Lookup Tables in Image Studio for an Optimal Image Display

Safety warnings

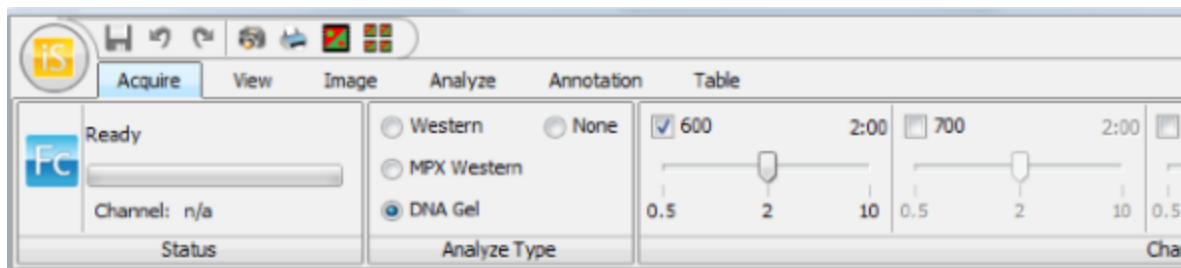
! See SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for warnings and safety hazards.

- 1 Place gel face-up on an Odyssey Fc Imaging Tray.

Note

Note: E-Gel® gel cassettes can be placed directly on the tray without removing the gel. The cassette has low background in the sample imaging area.

- 2 Open the imaging drawer by pressing the imaging drawer open/close button.
- 3 Place the Odyssey Fc Imaging Tray containing the gel in the imaging drawer. Close the drawer by pressing the imaging drawer open/close button again.
- 4 Open Image Studio software and connect to the Odyssey Fc Imager.
- 5 Click on the **Acquire** tab to show the Acquire ribbon.



- 6 In the Analyze Type group, select **DNA Gel** for automatic analysis or select **None**.



- 7 In the Channels group, select the **600** channel and deselect the other channels.
- 8 Select the acquisition time by dragging the slider in the 600 box. Typical acquisition times for agarose gels are from 0.5 to 2 minutes.
- 9 Once the parameters have been set, click on **Acquire Image** to start the acquisition. The Status group provides information on the imaging process.

Note

Note: To end an acquisition before it is completed, click on **Stop Acquiring**. All existing and pending channel images will be discarded.

- 10 Adjust the Lookup Table for the 600 channel to optimize the image display.

Note

Refer to How to Adjust the Lookup Tables in Image Studio for an Optimal Image Display (LI-COR Biosciences) for more information.

- 11 To excise a DNA band from the gel, carefully lift or slide the prepared gel onto an ultraviolet transilluminator (if using ethidium bromide), or a blue light transilluminator (if using SYBR® Safe). If using an E-Gel pre-cast agarose gel cassette, first remove the gel by opening the cassette with the E-Gel Opener.