

Ligation sequencing gDNA - low input by PCR (SQK-LSK110 with EXP-PCA001)

Version: LWP\_9117\_v110\_revK\_10Nov2020  
 Last update: 10/03/2023

Flow Cell Number: .....

DNA Samples: .....

**Before start checklist**

**Materials**

- <1 µg (or <100–200 fmol) high molecular weight genomic DNA
- Ligation Sequencing Kit (SQK-LSK110)
- PCR Expansion (EXP-PCA001)

**Consumables**

- Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter™ cat # A63881)
- NEBNext® Companion Module for Oxford Nanopore Technologies® Ligation Sequencing (NEB, E7180S or E7180L). Alternatively, you can use the NEBNext® products below:
- NEBNext FFPE Repair Mix (NEB, M6630)
- NEBNext Ultra II End repair/dA-tailing Module (NEB, E7546)
- NEBNext Quick Ligation Module (NEB, E6056)
- LongAmp Taq 2X Master Mix (e.g. NEB, cat # M0287)
- NEB Blunt/TA Ligase Master Mix (NEB, M0367)
- 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tubes
- 0.2 ml thin-walled PCR tubes
- Nuclease-free water (e.g. ThermoFisher, AM9937)
- Freshly prepared 70% ethanol in nuclease-free water
- 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5

**Equipment**

- Hula mixer (gentle rotator mixer)
- Magnetic rack, suitable for 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes
- Microfuge
- Vortex mixer
- Thermal cycler
- Ice bucket with ice
- Timer
- Pipettes and pipette tips P2, P10, P20, P100, P200, P1000

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**NOTES/OBSERVATIONS**

**End-prep**

- Prepare the DNA in Nuclease-free water
- Transfer <1 µg (or <100-200 fmol) genomic DNA into a 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube
  - Adjust the volume to 48 µl with Nuclease-free water
  - Mix thoroughly by flicking the tube to avoid unwanted shearing
  - Spin down briefly in a microfuge

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<p>In a 0.2 ml thin-walled PCR tube, mix the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 48 µl &lt;1 µg DNA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 7 µl Ultra II End-prep Reaction Buffer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 µl Ultra II End-prep Enzyme Mix</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 µl Nuclease-free water</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thoroughly mix the reaction by gently pipetting and briefly spinning down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Using a thermal cycler, incubate at 20°C for 5 minutes and 65°C for 5 minutes.</p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> AMPure XP bead clean-up</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transfer the DNA sample to a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Add 60 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the end-prep reaction and mix by flicking the tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 5 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 500 µl of fresh 70% ethanol in Nuclease-free water.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet on a magnet until supernatant is clear and colourless. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 200 µl of freshly prepared 70% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend the pellet in 61 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless, for at least 1 minute.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 61 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> </ul>	
<p>Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer.</p>	
<p>Take forward the repaired and end-prepped DNA into the next step. However, at this point it is also possible to store the sample at 4°C overnight.</p>	
<p><b>PCR adapters ligation and amplification</b></p>	
<p>Add the reagents as follows in the order below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 30 µl End-prepped DNA</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 20 µl PCR Adapter (PCA)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 50 µl Blunt/TA Ligase Master Mix</li> </ul>	

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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Thoroughly mix the reaction by gently pipetting and briefly spinning down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate the reaction for 10 minutes at RT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Add 40 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by flicking the tube.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 5 minutes at RT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 500 µl of fresh 70% ethanol in Nuclease-free water.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet on a magnet. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant when clear and colourless.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 200 µl of freshly prepared 70% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend the pellet in 26 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 26 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Quantify 1 µl of adapted DNA using a Qubit fluorometer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dilute the library to a concentration of 10 ng/µl with Nuclease-free water or 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5.</p> <p>Set up the adapted DNA PCR as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 46 µl Nuclease-free water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 µl Primer Mix (PRM)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 µl 10 ng/µl adapter ligated template</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 50 µl LongAmp Taq 2x master mix</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mix gently by flicking the tube, and spin down.</p> <p>Amplify using the following cycling conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Initial denaturation 3 mins @ 95 °C (1 cycle)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Denaturation 15 secs @ 95 °C (15-18 (b) cycles)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annealing 15 secs (a) @ 62 °C (a) (15-18 (b) cycles)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Extension dependent on length of target fragment (d) @ 65 °C (c) (15-18 (b) cycles)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Final extension dependent on length of target fragment (d) @ 65 °C (1 cycle)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hold @ 4 °C</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Add 40 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by flicking the tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 5 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 500 µl of fresh 70% ethanol in Nuclease-free water.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet on a magnet. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant when clear and colourless.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 200 µl of freshly prepared 70% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend pellet in 15 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 15 µl of eluate containing the DNA library into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quantify 1 µl of adapted DNA using a Qubit fluorometer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dilute 1 µg of PCR product to 47 µl.</li> </ul>	
<p>Take forward the sample into the next step. However, at this point, it is also possible to store the sample at 4°C overnight.</p>	
<p><b>DNA repair and end-prep</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw DNA Control Sample (DCS) at RT, spin down, mix by pipetting, and place on ice.</li> </ul> <p>Prepare the NEBNext FFPE DNA Repair Mix and NEBNext Ultra II End Repair / dA-tailing Module reagents in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and place on ice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw all reagents on ice.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flick and/or invert the reagent tubes to ensure they are well mixed.                      Note: Do not vortex the FFPE DNA Repair Mix or Ultra II End Prep Enzyme Mix.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Always spin down tubes before opening for the first time each day.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Ultra II End Prep Buffer and FFPE DNA Repair Buffer may have a little precipitate. Allow the mixture to come to RT and pipette the buffer up and down several times to break up the precipitate, followed by vortexing the tube for 30 seconds to solubilise any precipitate.                      Note: It is important the buffers are mixed well by vortexing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The FFPE DNA Repair Buffer may have a yellow tinge and is fine to use if yellow.</li> </ul>	

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<p>In a 0.2 ml thin-walled PCR tube, mix the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 47 µl DNA from the previous step</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 µl DNA CS (optional)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3.5 µl NEBNext FFPE DNA Repair Buffer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 µl NEBNext FFPE DNA Repair Mix</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3.5 µl Ultra II End-prep Reaction Buffer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 µl Ultra II End-prep Enzyme Mix</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the components are thoroughly mixed by pipetting, and spin down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Using a thermal cycler, incubate at 20°C for 5 minutes and 65°C for 5 minutes.</p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> AMPure XP bead clean-up</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transfer the DNA sample to a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Add 60 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the end-prep reaction and mix by flicking the tube.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 5 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 500 µl of fresh 70% ethanol in Nuclease-free water.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet on a magnet until supernatant is clear and colourless. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the tube on the magnet and wash the beads with 200 µl of freshly prepared 70% ethanol without disturbing the pellet. Remove the ethanol using a pipette and discard.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual ethanol. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend the pellet in 61 µl Nuclease-free water. Incubate for 2 minutes at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless, for at least 1 minute.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 61 µl of eluate into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> </ul>	
<p>Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer.</p>	
<p>Take forward the repaired and end-prepped DNA into the adapter ligation step. However, at this point it is also possible to store the sample at 4°C overnight.</p>	

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<p><b>Adapter ligation and clean-up</b></p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Although the recommended 3rd party ligase is supplied with its own buffer, the ligation efficiency of Adapter Mix F (AMX-F) is higher when using Ligation Buffer supplied within the Ligation Sequencing Kit.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the Adapter Mix F (AMX-F) and Quick T4 Ligase, and place on ice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw Ligation Buffer (LNB) at RT, spin down and mix by pipetting. Due to viscosity, vortexing this buffer is ineffective. Place on ice immediately after thawing and mixing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw the Elution Buffer (EB) at RT and mix by vortexing. Then spin down and place on ice.</p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p>Depending on the wash buffer (LFB or SFB) used, the clean-up step after adapter ligation is designed to either enrich for DNA fragments of &gt;3 kb, or purify all fragments equally.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To enrich for DNA fragments of 3 kb or longer, use Long Fragment Buffer (LFB)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To retain DNA fragments of all sizes, use Short Fragment Buffer (SFB)</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> To enrich for DNA fragments of 3 kb or longer, thaw one tube of Long Fragment Buffer (LFB) at RT, mix by vortexing, spin down and place on ice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To retain DNA fragments of all sizes, thaw one tube of Short Fragment Buffer (SFB) at RT, mix by vortexing, spin down and place on ice.</p> <p>In a 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube, mix in the following order:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 60 µl DNA sample from the previous step</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25 µl Ligation Buffer (LNB)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10 µl NEBNext Quick T4 DNA Ligase</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 µl Adapter Mix F (AMX-F)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the components are thoroughly mixed by pipetting, and spin down.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate the reaction for 10 minutes at RT.</p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If you have omitted the AMPure purification step after DNA repair and end-prep, do not incubate the reaction for longer than 10 minutes.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Resuspend the AMPure XP beads by vortexing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Add 40 µl of resuspended AMPure XP beads to the reaction and mix by flicking the tube.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incubate on a Hula mixer (rotator mixer) for 5 minutes at RT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down the sample and pellet on a magnet. Keep the tube on the magnet, and pipette off the supernatant when clear and colourless.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wash the beads by adding either 250 µl Long Fragment Buffer (LFB) or 250 µl Short Fragment Buffer (SFB). Flick the beads to resuspend, spin down, then return the tube to the magnetic rack and allow the beads to pellet. Remove the supernatant using a pipette and discard.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Repeat the previous step.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spin down and place the tube back on the magnet. Pipette off any residual supernatant. Allow to dry for ~30 seconds, but do not dry the pellet to the point of cracking.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove the tube from the magnetic rack and resuspend the pellet in 15 µl Elution Buffer (EB). Spin down and incubate for 10 minutes at RT. For high molecular weight DNA, incubating at 37°C can improve the recovery of long fragments.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pellet the beads on a magnet until the eluate is clear and colourless, for at least 1 minute.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove and retain 15 µl of eluate containing the DNA library into a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tube.</li> </ul>	
<p>Quantify 1 µl of eluted sample using a Qubit fluorometer.</p>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> We recommend loading 5-50 fmol of the final prepared library onto a flow cell.</li> </ul>	
<p>The prepared library is used for loading into the flow cell. Store the library on ice or at 4°C until ready to load.</p>	
<p><b>Priming and loading the SpotON flow cell</b></p>	
<p>Using the Loading Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thaw the Sequencing Buffer II (SBI), Loading Beads II (LBI) or Loading Solution (LS, if using), Flush Tether (FLT) and one tube of Flush Buffer (FB) at RT before mixing the reagents by vortexing and spin down at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To prepare the flow cell priming mix, add 30 µl of thawed and mixed Flush Tether (FLT) directly to the tube of thawed and mixed Flush Buffer (FB), and mix by vortexing at RT.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Open the MinION device lid and slide the flow cell under the clip.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slide the flow cell priming port cover clockwise to open the priming port.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take care when drawing back buffer from the flow cell. Do not remove more than 20-30 µl, and make sure that the array of pores are covered by buffer at all times. Introducing air bubbles into the array can irreversibly damage pores.</li> </ul>	
<p>After opening the priming port, check for a small air bubble under the cover. Draw back a small volume to remove any bubbles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Set a P1000 pipette to 200 µl</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insert the tip into the priming port</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Turn the wheel until the dial shows 220-230 µl, to draw back 20-30 µl, or until you can see a small volume of buffer entering the pipette tip</li> </ul> <p>Note: Visually check that there is continuous buffer from the priming port across the sensor array.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Load 800 µl of the priming mix into the flow cell via the priming port, avoiding the introduction of air bubbles. Wait for five minutes. During this time, prepare the library for loading by following the steps below.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thoroughly mix the contents of the Loading Beads II (LBII) by pipetting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Loading Beads II (LBII) tube contains a suspension of beads. These beads settle very quickly. It is vital that they are mixed immediately before use.</li> </ul>	
<p>In a new tube, prepare the library for loading as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 37.5 µl Sequencing Buffer II (SBI)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 25.5 µl Loading Beads II (LBII) mixed immediately before use, or Loading Solution (LS), if using</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 12 µl DNA library</li> </ul> <p>Complete the flow cell priming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gently lift the SpotON sample port cover to make the SpotON sample port accessible.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Load 200 µl of the priming mix into the flow cell priming port (not the SpotON sample port), avoiding the introduction of air bubbles.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mix the prepared library gently by pipetting up and down just prior to loading.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Add 75 µl of the prepared library to the flow cell via the SpotON sample port in a dropwise fashion. Ensure each drop flows into the port before adding the next.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gently replace the SpotON sample port cover, making sure the bung enters the SpotON port, close the priming port and replace the MinION device lid.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Flow cell reuse and returns</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> After your sequencing experiment is complete, if you would like to reuse the flow cell, please follow the Flow Cell Wash Kit protocol and store the washed flow cell at 2-8°C.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alternatively, follow the returns procedure to flush out the flow cell ready to send back to Oxford Nanopore.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If you encounter issues or have questions about your sequencing experiment, please refer to the Troubleshooting Guide that can be found in the online version of this protocol.</li> </ul>	