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QIAxcel® DNA High-Sensitivity Kit Handbook

For automated electrophoretic analysis of DNA
using the QIAxcel Connect instrument

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Kit Contents

QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit	(1200)
Catalog no.	929012
No. of samples	12 x 100
QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Cartridge (with smart key)	1
QX HS Separation Buffer*	80 ml
QX HS Wash Buffer	80 ml
QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer	100 ml
QX Mineral Oil	50 ml
QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker	20 µl
QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	2
QX Colored 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	2
QX DNA HS Size Marker (100 bp – 1 kb)	2x 50 µl
QX DNA HS Alignment Marker	4x 50 µl
Quick Start Guide	1

* Contains sodium azide as a preservative.

	DNA High Resolution Kit	DNA Screening Kit	DNA Fast Analysis Kit	DNA High- Sensitivity Kit
Sizing range	15 bp – 20 kb	15 bp – 5 kb	15 bp – 3 kb	15 bp – 3 kb
Best resolution	3–5 bp	20–50 bp	50–100 bp	20–50 bp
Analysis time (12 samples)	9–25 min	~7 min	3–5 min	~9 min
Limit of detection	0.1 ng/µl	0.1 ng/µl	0.1 ng/µl	Down to 5 pg/µl
Kit size	1200 samples	2400 samples	3000 samples	1200 samples

Shipping and Storage

The QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit is shipped in two boxes. Upon arrival, the gel cartridge should be stored at 2–8°C and the markers at –30 to –15°C. We recommend aliquoting the markers (e.g., 5 µl or 10 µl aliquots) before storage at –30 to –15°C to minimize freeze–thaw cycles. If stored properly, the QIAxcel gel cartridge is stable until the expiration date indicated on the kit label. All other components, including buffers and 12-Tube Strips, can be stored dry at room temperature (15–25°C).

Note: Storing the QIAxcel gel cartridge below 2°C can severely damage the cartridge.

Intended Use

The QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit is intended for molecular biology applications. This product is not intended for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a disease.

All due care and attention should be exercised in the handling of the products. We recommend all users of QIAGEN® products to adhere to the NIH guidelines that have been developed for recombinant DNA experiments, or to other applicable guidelines.

Safety Information

When working with chemicals, always wear a suitable lab coat, disposable gloves, and protective goggles. For more information, please consult the appropriate safety data sheets (SDSs). These are available online in convenient and compact PDF format at www.qiagen.com/safety, where you can find, view, and print the SDS for each QIAGEN kit and kit component.

Quality Control

In accordance with QIAGEN's ISO-certified Quality Management System, each lot of the QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit is tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality.

Introduction

QIAxcel instruments, in combination with the QIAxcel DNA and RNA kits and accessories, provide fully automated separation of nucleic acid fragments by size, processing up to 96 samples per run.

QIAxcel Connect is an automated capillary electrophoresis instrument that provides unmatched resolution, speed, and throughput. QIAxcel gel cartridges are reusable, allowing multiple runs of 12 samples (up to 100 runs with the QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit) to be performed. QIAxcel Connect instrument comes with the QIAxcel ScreenGel software, which has preinstalled methods suitable for most applications. In addition, customized methods can also be created — contact QIAGEN Technical Services for more details.

QIAxcel ScreenGel® software provides both electropherogram and gel images of nucleic acid separation. Additional kits for separation and quantification of DNA as well as RNA are also available (see Ordering Information, page 28).

Principle and procedure

The QIAxcel Connect system uses capillary gel electrophoresis to enable fast separation of nucleic acids based on size. Unlike traditional agarose gel electrophoresis, separation is performed in a capillary of a precast gel cartridge. Each sample is automatically loaded into an individual capillary (according to voltage and time parameters) and voltage is applied. The negatively charged nucleic acid molecules migrate through the capillary to the positively charged end (Figure 1, page 7). As with agarose gel electrophoresis, low-molecular-weight molecules migrate faster than high-molecular-weight molecules. As the molecules migrate through the capillary, they pass a detector that detects and measures a fluorescent signal. A photomultiplier detector converts the emission signal into electronic data, which is then transferred to the computer for further processing using QIAxcel ScreenGel software. After processing, the data is displayed as an electropherogram or gel image.

The QIAxcel system offers a number of advantages over traditional agarose gel electrophoresis, including:

- Higher detection sensitivity
- Less sample loss (minimal sample input volumes)
- Improved fragment resolution
- Fast analysis of up to 96 samples
- Automated loading and analysis

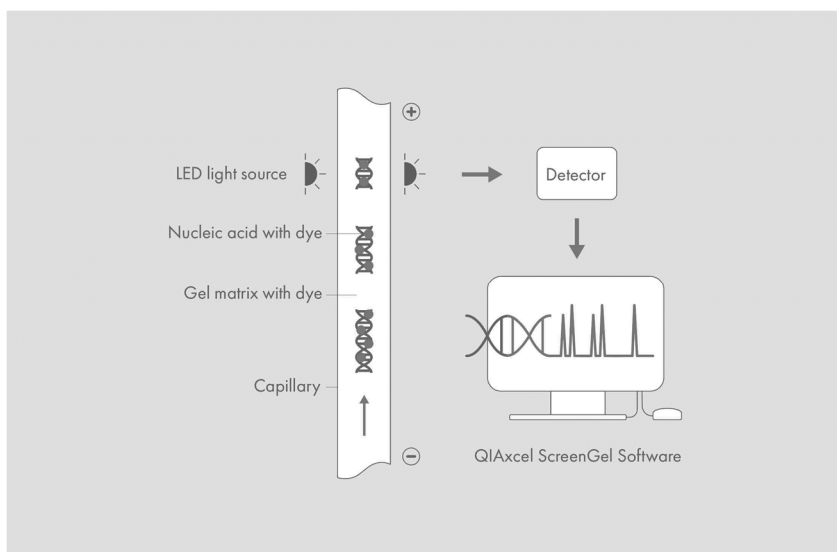


Figure 1. Sample separation process using the QIAxcel system. By applying a voltage to a gel-filled capillary nucleic acid molecules are separated in an electric field according to their size. A photomultiplier detector detects the fluorescent labelled nucleic acid molecules as they migrate towards the positively charged end of the capillary. The migration patterns are converted to electropherograms and a gel images by the QIAxcel ScreenGel software.

Equipment and Reagents to Be Supplied by User

When working with chemicals, always wear a suitable lab coat, disposable gloves, and protective goggles. For more information, consult the appropriate safety data sheets (SDSs), available from the product supplier.

- 12-tube strips (e.g., QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip, cat. no. 929703) or 96-well plates
- Centrifuge with rotor suitable for 0.2 ml strips or 96-well plates, such as the Centrifuge 4-16 or Centrifuge 4-16K (for ordering information, see www.qiagen.com)
- QIAxcel Connect instrument (cat. no. 9003110) and QIAxcel ScreenGel software version 2.0 or higher

Important Notes

Preparing the QIAxcel gel cartridge and buffer tray

This procedure describes how to prepare the QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Cartridge and buffer tray prior to DNA analysis.

Important points before starting

- The 0.2 ml 12-tube strips containing QX HS Alignment Marker and QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker (if required) should fit loosely in the MARKER1 and MARKER2 positions.
- If less than 12 samples are processed, fill the empty sample wells with the QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer. Processing empty wells may cause damage to the capillary channels of the gel cartridge.
- Working-Dilution of QX DNA HS Alignment Markers should be replaced daily or after 24 rows (3 plates) of samples, whichever comes first. 12-tube strips containing samples with volumes less than 10 µl should be covered with mineral oil.
- For optimal performance, store the QIAxcel gel cartridge at 2–8°C and in an upright position. Prior to use, the QIAxcel gel cartridge should be allowed to equilibrate at room temperature (20–25°C) for at least 20 minutes.

Things to do before starting

- Equilibrate needed markers to room temperature (20–25°C)
- If the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge is being used for the first time, intensity calibration should be performed (refer to section 6.5.1 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual*). This is not necessary if the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge has already been calibrated, unless it is being used on a different QIAxcel instrument or with a different computer to operate the instrument. If a different computer is being used to operate the QIAxcel instrument, the calibration log file must be transferred to the new computer so that calibration does not need to be performed again.

Unpacking and preparing the QIAxcel gel cartridge

For optimal performance, store the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge at 2–8°C and in an upright position until use. Prior to use, the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge should be equilibrated at room temperature for at least 20 minutes. This can be done by placing the cartridge into the QX Cartridge Stand protected with the cover, vertically in the blister package, or stored latched in the instrument in the “Park Position” with buffer in the buffer tray.

1. Remove all buffer bottles from the kit box.
2. Add 10 ml QX HS Wash Buffer to both reservoirs of the QX Cartridge Stand (provided with QIAxcel instruments) and cover with 2 ml mineral oil (supplied).
3. Remove the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge from its packaging and carefully wipe off any soft gel debris from the capillary tips using a soft tissue.
4. Remove the purge cap seal from the back of the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge and place the gel cartridge in the QX Cartridge Stand or in the QIAxcel instrument. Retain the purge port seal in case you need to store the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge.

Note: Use a soft tissue to wipe off any gel that may have leaked from the purge port.

Note: Ensure that the capillary tips are submerged in QX HS Wash Buffer.

5. Incubate new cartridges for at least 20 minutes at room temperature prior to use.



Figure 2. Preparing the QIAxcel gel cartridge. Upright storage in QX Cartridge Stand (cat. no. 929708) is recommended.

When the QIAxcel gel cartridge is not in use, close the purge port with the purge port seal, return the QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Cartridge to the blister package, inserting the capillary tips into the soft gel, and store at 2–8°C in an upright position (see orientation label on blister package).

Preparing the buffer tray

1. Allow all reagents to equilibrate to room temperature (15–25°C) before use.
2. Wash the buffer tray with hot water and rinse thoroughly with deionized water.
3. Fill the WP and WI positions of the buffer tray with 8 ml QX HS Wash Buffer (Figure 3).

4. Fill the BUFFER position of the buffer tray with 18 ml QX HS Separation Buffer (Figure 3).
5. Carefully add mineral oil to cover all 3 positions to prevent evaporation: add 2 ml mineral oil to positions WP and WI and add 4 ml mineral oil to position BUFFER.
6. Insert the buffer tray into the buffer tray holder so that the slots for the 12 tube strips face the front of the instrument.

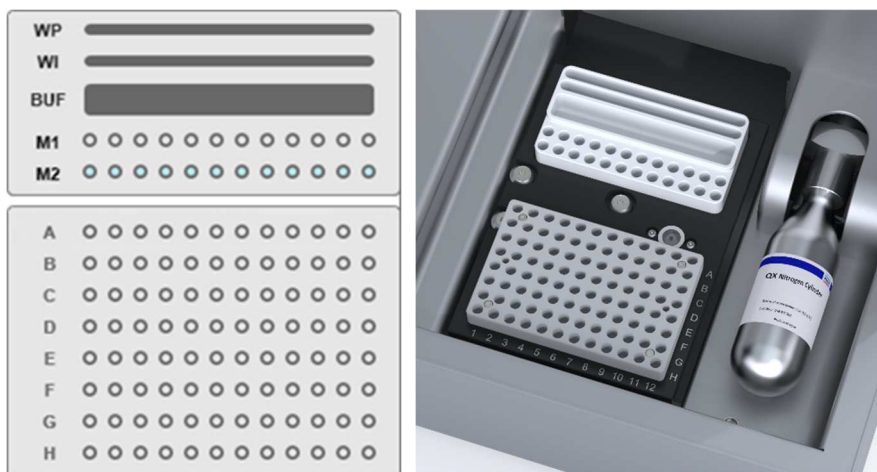


Figure 3. Preparing the buffer tray and inserting the buffer tray into the buffer tray holder.

Loading a QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge and smart key

1. Remove the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge from its packaging or from the QX Cartridge Stand.
2. Open the cartridge door and place the QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge into the QIAxcel Connect instrument. The cartridge description label should face the front and the purge port should face the back of the instrument.
3. Insert the smart key into the smart key socket. The smart key can be inserted in either direction.
4. Close the cartridge door.

5. The cartridge identifier, number of runs remaining, and cartridge type will be displayed automatically in the software when the cartridge smart key is inserted.

Note: The system will not recognize the cartridge and will not operate if the smart key is not inserted.



Figure 4. Installing the QIAxcel gel cartridge and smart key in the QIAxcel Connect instrument.

Intensity calibration

Every QIAxcel DNA gel cartridge requires intensity calibration prior to sample analysis. The intensities of each capillary are normalized and a factor is applied for every subsequent run. This corrects for natural intensity reading variations between each capillary in the cartridge.

Intensity calibration of the cartridge takes about 16 minutes.

1. Prepare a 1:100 dilution of the QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker using the QX HS DNA Dilution Buffer. Add 2 µl of QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker to 198 µl of QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer.
2. Load 15 µl of the prepared QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker dilution into each tube of a QX Colored 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip. Add a drop of mineral oil, and insert the strip into the MARKER2 position of the buffer tray.

Note: Discard any leftover of the prepared dilution.

3. Launch the calibration run by clicking the “Start calibration” button in the “Calibration” screen of the “Service” environment.
4. Once the calibration is complete, the calibration results are displayed next to the gel image or the electropherogram view. The result table shows the area, calibration factor, and the result (“Pass” or “Fail”) for each channel.

Note: A successfully calibrated cartridge should have a normalized area calibrated range between 0.016–0.024.

5. If one or more channels show no signals in the first run, refer to Appendix A, page 23.
6. If one or more channels show high background noise, refer to Section 8 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual*.
7. If calibration fails more than twice, call QIAGEN Technical Services.

Note: If calibration fails, the dilution of the QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker should be prepared freshly.

Note: If, for any reason, a different computer is used to the one on which the calibration file is saved, the calibration file should be transferred to the new computer. For more information refer to *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual*.

Recalibration using QIAxcel ScreenGel Software

To recalibrate a cartridge, repeat the procedure described in “Intensity calibration using QIAxcel ScreenGel Software”. The calibration results of the previous calibration procedure are discarded when recalibrating a cartridge.

Note: It is possible to calibrate a cartridge for which no calibration runs remain. In this case, 3 of the remaining regular runs are used instead of 1 calibration run.

Preparing QX DNA HS Alignment Marker

1. Prepare 1:100 dilution of the QX HS DNA Alignment Marker using the QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer. Add 2 µl of QX HS DNA Alignment Marker to 198 µl of QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer.
2. Load 15 µl of the prepared QX DNA HS Alignment Marker dilution into each tube of a QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip.

Note: Discard any leftover of the prepared dilution.

3. Add 1 drop of mineral oil to each tube, and place the strip into the MARKER1 position of the buffer tray.

Prepare the DNA samples and QX DNA HS Size Marker (100 bp – 1 kb)

1. Dilute the QX DNA HS Size Marker (100 bp – 1 kb) 1:100 with QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer.

Note: We do not recommend preparing less than 100 µl as the final volume.

2. **Optional:** If the DNA sample has a concentration above 5 ng/µl or exhibited saturated DNA peaks in the electropherograms, dilute DNA sample with QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer to a concentration range between 5 pg/µl and 5 ng/µl.
3. For each sample, pipet 6–10 µl of sample into a corresponding position of a 0.2 ml 12-tube strip or a 96-well plate.

4. Pipet 6–10 μl of pre-diluted Size Marker into another position of the 12-tube strip or 96-well plate.

Note: If working with less than 10 μl of sample or marker, or if samples and marker are left in instrument for prolonged time, add 1 drop of mineral oil.

Note: If analyzing less than 12 samples, fill empty positions with QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer to protect the capillaries from damage.

Important note: The 1:100 dilution of all marker is the working solution for one day and should be prepared fresh for each day!

The recommended sample volume for analysis is 10 μl . If necessary, the volume can be reduced down to 6 μl . Less than 0.1 μl of the sample will be injected into the QIAxcel gel cartridge for analysis. The remaining DNA can be kept for re-analysis or use in downstream applications such as sequencing or cloning. We do not recommend using the remaining DNA in amplification-based applications such as real-time PCR, Next-Generation Sequencing, or nested PCR.

The sample concentration range to be used with the High-Sensitivity cartridge is 5 pg/ μl to 5 ng/ μl . If the concentration of your sample is too high prepare a dilution using the QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer.

Note: If less than 12 samples are processed, fill the empty sample wells with the QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer. Processing empty wells may damage the capillary channels of the gel cartridge.

Protocol: Determination of DNA Fragment Sizes using QIAxcel ScreenGel Software

Important points before starting

- Before beginning the procedure, read “Important Notes” beginning on page 9.
- For optimal results, DNA should be in a solution of approximately pH 6–9 and should not have an ionic content greater than that of a typical PCR buffer.

Procedure

1. Switch on the QIAxcel instrument.
2. Switch on the computer, launch the QIAxcel ScreenGel software, and log in as a user in “DNA mode”.
3. Install the QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity gel cartridge.

Refer to Section 5.2.1 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual* for more details.

4. Load the buffer tray containing the QX HS Alignment Marker into the buffer tray holder.
Refer to Section 5.2.5 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual* for more details.

Note: QX DNA HS Alignment Markers should be replaced daily or every 24 runs, whichever comes first.

5. Load the sample strips or load a 96-well plate containing samples onto the sample tray holder.

Note: The cartridge door and sample door of the QIAxcel instrument must remain closed during operation of the instrument. Opening the cartridge door or sample door during operation will cause the system to stop any action it is performing.

6. Select the Default DNA High-Sensitivity process profile from the Process Profile drop-down list.

Set the process profile!

PROFILE DEFINITION

- 1. Process Profile
- 2. Run Parameters
- 3. Analysis
- 4. Marker
- 5. Peak Calling
- 6. Report/Export

START A PROCESS

- 1. Sample Selection
- 2. Sample Information
- 3. Run Check

Mode

☒ DNA ☐ RNA

Cartridge Type

DNA High-Sensitivity

Process Profile

☒ Peak Calling ☐ Distribution Analysis

DNA High-Sensitivity

Profile

Included Steps

☒ Run ☒ Analysis ☐ Peak Calling ☒ Report

Experiment Directory

C:\ProgramData\QIAGEN\QIAxcelScreenGel 2.0\Data\Experiment\DNA

☐ Allow Directory Selection

Notes

Default DNA High-Sensitivity profile with method DNA High-Sensitivity and side by side marker QX DNA HS 100 bp - 1 kb. Applies analysis profile DNA High-Sensitivity with dynamic threshold.

Save process profile as ... Run

Note: Process profiles provide preset analysis and report parameters for samples. Process profiles can also be created by the user. See section 6.3 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual* for a description of how to create process profiles.

7. Go to “Run Parameters” to select the rows containing your samples.

The screenshot shows the 'Set methods and parameters!' dialog box with the 'Run Parameters' tab selected. The 'Method Details' section shows a table with columns: Method, Range, M, Inj. Time, R/R, Runs, and Preview. The first row is 'DNA High-Sensit...' with Range 'A', M 'A1', Inj. Time '10', R/R '1', and Runs '1'. Below the table are 'Insert', 'Add', and 'Delete' buttons. There are checkboxes for 'Allow row deselection' and 'Allow marker definition'. The 'Method' dropdown is set to 'DNA High-Sensitivity', 'Range' is 'A', and 'Marker' is 'A1'. 'Injection Time' is '10 sec' and 'Runs per Row' is '1'. A note states: '* This method costs 1 regular run(s) decrement in the cartridge key.' At the bottom are 'Save process profile as...' and 'Run' buttons. The 'Sample Row Selection' section on the right shows a grid of rows A-H and columns 1-12. Row A is selected, and the size marker is at position A1. A legend indicates: 'Left-click to add or remove sample rows' and 'Right-click to define marker position'.

Note: By default row A is selected with the size marker on position A1. Additional rows can be selected/ deselected by a left-click. The position of the size marker can be changed by a right-click on the position.

8. Next, under “Sample Selection”, size marker position, lot number information, and experiment name can be modified.

The screenshot shows the 'Set sample rows, marker, and lot information for processing!' dialog box. The 'Sample Information' section contains fields for 'Experiment Name / Plate ID' (C121526099_2021-07-07_12-41-32), 'Experiment Directory' (C:\ProgramData\QIAGEN\QIAxcelScreenGel 2.0\Data\Experiment\DNA), and 'Reference Marker' (No Marker, Use selected marker table, or Run size marker side by side with sample). The 'Alignment Marker' dropdown is set to 'QX DNA High-Sensitivity', 'Size Marker' is 'QX DNA HS 100 bp - 1 kb', and 'Show Lot Information' is unchecked. At the bottom are 'Save process profile as...' and 'Run' buttons. The 'Sample Row Selection' section on the right shows a grid of rows A-H and columns 1-12. Row A is selected, and the size marker is at position A1. A legend indicates: 'Left-click to select/deselect sample row(s), right-click to define/redefine size marker'.

9. Go to “2. Sample Information” to enter information about the sample.

10. Open “3. Run Check”, and confirm that samples and markers have been loaded correctly.

Click “Run” to start the run.

Confirm checks, fix warnings and errors!

PROFILE DEFINITION

1. Process Profile

2. Run Parameters

3. Analysis

4. Marker

5. Peak Calling

6. Report/Export

START A PROCESS

1. Sample Selection

2. Sample Information

3. Run Check

Please Confirm

☒ All selected sample rows contain samples

☒ Alignment marker is loaded

☒ Size marker is loaded

Confirmation successful!

Errors and Warnings

No errors or warnings!

Sample Row Selection

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A												
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H												

Total Runs: 1

Estimated Time: About 11 minutes

Method(s): Q4500

Size Marker: 100 bp - 2.5 kb (20 ng per ...

Alignment Marker: QX 15 bp-5 kb

Reference Marker: —

Experiment: C121126099 2012-11-26 12:4

Save process profile as ...

Run

Note: A report is automatically generated according to the settings in the selected process profile.

Note: Changes to the analysis settings can be performed by users with the user roles Administrator or Developer (refer to section 6.4 in the *QIAxcel ScreenGel Software User Manual* for more information on how to change the analysis settings).

Troubleshooting Guide

This troubleshooting guide may be helpful in solving any problems that may arise. For more information, see also the Frequently Asked Questions page at our Technical Support Center: www.qiagen.com/FAQ/FAQList.aspx (for contact information, visit www.qiagen.com).

For comments and suggestions, please refer to the “Troubleshooting” section of the *QIAxcel Connect System User Manual*.

Contact Information

For technical assistance and more information, please see our Technical Support Center at **www.qiagen.com/Support**, call 00800-22-44-6000, or contact one of the QIAGEN Technical Service Departments or local distributors (see back cover or visit **www.qiagen.com**).

Appendix A: Removing Gel from Blocked Capillaries

Blocked capillaries may lead to issues during calibration or sample runs. Gel can be removed from blocked capillaries by performing the standard gel-droplet test. If the standard gel-droplet test fails, gel can be removed by performing the gel-droplet test with hot water or by performing the gel-droplet test using the QX Cartridge Prep Station. After confirmation of gel flow, a signal check can be performed before starting a calibration or sample run (see page 26).

Standard gel-droplet test

Note: The QIAxcel gel cartridge must be prepared before the standard gel-droplet test is performed. Prepare the QIAxcel gel cartridge by following steps 1–4 on page 10.

Procedure with QIAxcel ScreenGel software

1. Launch the QIAxcel ScreenGel software, and click “Load Position” in the status information bar.
2. Remove the buffer tray from the buffer tray holder.
3. Place a soft tissue on the buffer tray holder and click “Park Position”.
4. Install the QIAxcel gel cartridge and the smart key as described in Section 5.2.1 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel User Manual*.
5. Ensure that the cartridge identifier is displayed in the “Cartridge Status” window.
6. Click “Latch” to latch the cartridge if automatic latching is not active.
7. Switch to the “Service” Environment, and open the maintenance tab.
8. Click “Long Purge” to start purging.

The purging process stops automatically after 3 min. To stop the purging process, click “Stop”.

9. Open the sample door. If all capillaries have formed homogeneous gel droplets, click “Unlatch”. Remove the gel cartridge from the instrument and carefully clean the capillary tips with a wet tissue.
Note: If any capillary fails to form gel droplets, perform the gel-droplet test with hot water.
10. Remove the tissue from the buffer tray holder and insert the buffer tray into the buffer tray holder.
11. Place the gel cartridge into the QIAxcel instrument and perform the signal check (see page 26).

Gel-droplet test with hot water

If any of the capillaries fail to form droplets in the standard gel-droplet test, clogged capillaries can be cleared by performing a purge test with hot water.

Procedure

1. If any of the capillaries fail to form droplets in the standard gel-droplet test (page 23), fill the reservoir of the QX Cartridge Stand (cat. no. 929708) with 12 ml hot (90°C or near boiling) water.
2. Place the cartridge in the reservoir of the QX Cartridge Stand and submerge the tips for 7–10 min in the hot water. This should soften the dried gel at the capillary tips.
3. Empty the reservoir and fill again with 12 ml hot water.
4. Repeat step 2 to soften any dried gel at the capillary tips.
5. Place the cartridge into the QIAxcel instrument and perform the standard gel-droplet test again (see page 23).
6. Check whether gel droplets form at the capillary tips. If any of the capillaries still do not form homogeneous gel droplets, submerge the capillary tips in hot water for 20–30 min and then repeat step 5.

7. If all capillaries form homogeneous gel droplets, clean the tips with wet tissue, and perform the manual signal check (see page 26). If after 3 attempts a capillary fails to form homogeneous gel droplets, contact QIAGEN Technical Services or perform the gel droplet test using the QX Cartridge Prep Station.

Gel-droplet test using the QX Cartridge Prep Station

If after 3 attempts homogeneous droplets do not form for all capillaries in the gel-droplet test with hot water (page 24), clogged capillaries can be cleared by performing a purge test in the QX Cartridge Prep Station (cat. no. 9018886).

1. Place the QIAxcel gel cartridge in the QX Cartridge Prep Station (cat. no. 9018886).
2. Attach the purge port clamp to the top of the cartridge (the knob should be in front of the cartridge), and gently tighten the knob to secure the cartridge.
3. Insert a QX Nitrogen Cylinder (cat. no. 929705) into the pressure regulator (cat. no. 9018398), and secure it inside the cylinder stand.



4. Slowly adjust the pressure to 60–65 psi, monitoring the pressure displayed in the pressure gauge.
Do not exceed 65 psi.
5. Check to see whether gel droplets form at the capillary tips.
6. If all capillaries formed homogeneous gel droplets within 1–3 min, turn off the pressure, remove the purge clamp and clean the tips with wet tissue.
7. Place the cartridge into the instrument, and perform the manual signal check (see below).
8. If any of the capillaries fail to form gel droplets within 1–3 min, contact QIAGEN Technical Services.

Performing a signal check

Proper function of the cartridge channels can be tested by performing a signal check. The signal check should be performed successfully (i.e., all channels should detect a single peak at 1.0–3.5 minutes) before running the calibration wizard again.

Things to do before starting

1. Prepare the buffer tray as described in Section 5.2.4 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel User Manual*.
2. Load the buffer tray as described Section 5.2.5 of the *QIAxcel ScreenGel User Manual*.
3. Load the QX HS Intensity Calibration Marker into the MARKER2 position of the buffer tray (see “Intensity calibration”, page 13 , for more information).

Procedure using QIAxcel ScreenGel Software

1. Launch the QIAxcel ScreenGel Software.
2. From the drop-down list in the process profile tab, select the “Signal Check” process profile that corresponds to the cartridge in use.
3. Click the “Run Check” tab, enter the required information, and click “Run”.
4. If a single peak is detected in all channels, intensity calibration can be performed again (see “Intensity calibration”, page 13). If one or more channels fail to detect a peak (i.e., no band present), contact QIAGEN Technical Services.

Ordering Information

Product	Contents	Cat. no.
QIAxcel DNA High Resolution Kit (1200)	QIAxcel DNA High Resolution Cartridge, Buffers, Mineral Oil, QX Intensity Calibration Marker, 12-Tube Strips	929002
QIAxcel DNA Screening Kit (2400)	QIAxcel DNA Screening Cartridge, Buffers, Mineral Oil, QX Intensity Calibration Marker, 12-Tube Strips	929004
QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Kit (1200)	QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Cartridge, QIAxcel DNA High-Sensitivity Marker Set, Buffers, Mineral Oil, 12-Tube Strips	929012
QIAxcel DNA Fast Analysis Kit (3000)	QIAxcel DNA Fast Analysis Cartridge, Buffers, Mineral Oil, QX Intensity Calibration Marker, QX DNA Size Marker 50 bp – 1.5 kb, QX Alignment Marker 15 bp/3 kb, 12-Tube Strips	929008
QIAxcel RNA QC Kit v2.0 (1200)	For 100 runs of 12 samples: QIAxcel RNA Quality Control Cartridge, Buffers, Mineral Oil, QX Intensity Calibration Marker, QX RNA Alignment Marker, QX RNA Size Marker 200–6000 nt, QX RNA Denaturation Buffer, 12-Tube Strips	929104
QIAxcel RNA High-Sensitivity Kit (1200)	QIAxcel RNA High-Sensitivity Cartridge, QIAxcel RNA High-Sensitivity Marker Set, Buffers, Mineral Oil, 12-Tube Strips	929112

Product	Contents	Cat. no.
QIAxcel Connect System	Capillary electrophoresis device, including computer, and QIAxcel ScreenGel Software; 1-year warranty on parts and labor	
QX Buffers		
QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer (100 ml)	100 ml QX DNA HS Dilution Buffer	929612
QX Mineral Oil (50 ml)	50 ml QX Mineral Oil	929605
QIAxcel Accessories		
QX Cartridge Stand with Cover	QX Cartridge Stand and QX Cartridge Stand Cover	929708
QX Buffer Tray	Buffer tray for use with the QIAxcel system	929702
QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip (80)	80 x QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	929703
QX Color 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip (80)	80 x QX Color 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	929704
QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip Caps (80)	80 strip caps for use with QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	929706
QX Nitrogen Cylinder (6)	6 QIAxcel Nitrogen Cylinders	929705

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Document Revision History

Date	Change
R1, 2022	Initial revision

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