

# Amaxa™ 96-well Shuttle™ Basic Protocol for Primary Mammalian Fibroblasts

## Cell Description

Fibroblastoid cells, adherent.

### Note

Mammalian fibroblasts display significant phenotypic variations due to the wide range of both species and body sites from which they may be sourced.

This basic protocol describes how to easily define optimal Nucleofection™ Conditions for different mammalian fibroblasts. We recommend to first test a set of pre-selected Nucleofector™ Programs together with two of our Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Kits:

- P2 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Kit
- P3 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Kit

For subsequent experiments simply use the kit which yields the best results.

If you have questions regarding your fibroblasts of interest, please contact our Scientific Support Team for further help with the optimization.

## Product Description

### Recommended Kits

P2 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Kit or

P3 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Kit

Cat. No.	V4SP-2096
Size (reactions)	1×96
P2 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution	2.25 ml
Supplement	0.5 ml
pmaxGFP™ Vector (1 µg/µl in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0)	50 µg
Nucleocuvette™ Plate (s)	1

Cat. No.	V4SP-2960
Size (reactions)	10×96
P2 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution	22.5 ml
Supplement	5.0 ml
pmaxGFP™ Vector (1 µg/µl in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0)	50 µg
Nucleocuvette™ Plate (s)	10

Cat. No.	V4SP-3096
Size (reactions)	1×96
P3 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution	2.25 ml
Supplement	0.5 ml
pmaxGFP™ Vector (1 µg/µl in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0)	50 µg
Nucleocuvette™ Plate (s)	1

Cat. No.	V4SP-3960
Size (reactions)	10×96
P3 Primary Cell 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution	22.5 ml
Supplement	5 ml
pmaxGFP™ Vector (1 µg/µl in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0)	50 µg
Nucleocuvette™ Plate (s)	10

### Storage and Stability

Store Nucleofector™ Solution, Supplement and pmaxGFP™ Vector at 4°C. For long term storage pmaxGFP™ Vector is ideally stored at -20°C. The expiry date is printed on the solution box. Once the Nucleofector™ Supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution it is stable for three months at 4°C.

### Note

96-well Nucleofector™ Solutions can only be used with conductive polymer cuvettes, i.e. in the 96-well Shuttle™ Device and in the 4D-Nucleofector™ System. They are not compatible with the Nucleofector™ II/2b Device.

## Optimization Guidelines

The initial optimization experiment is comprised of 32 reactions, using 2 Nucleocuvette™ Modules: 7 different Nucleofector™ Programs are tested in duplicate with 2 Nucleofector™ Solutions plus 1 control. The program and 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution which turned out to be the most appropriate Nucleofection™ Condition should be used for all subsequent transfections.

P2 Primary Cell Nucleofector™ Solution		P3 Primary Cell Nucleofector™ Solution		
1	2	3	4	5–12
A 96-CA-137	96-CA-137	96-CA-137	96-CA-137	—
B 96-CM-138	96-CM-138	96-CM-138	96-CM-138	—
C 96-DS-150	96-DS-150	96-DS-150	96-DS-150	—
D 96-EH-100	96-EH-100	96-EH-100	96-EH-100	—
E 96-EN-150	96-EN-150	96-EN-150	96-EN-150	—
F 96-E0-114	96-E0-114	96-E0-114	96-E0-114	—
G 96-FF-113	96-FF-113	96-FF-113	96-FF-113	—
H negative control (no program)	negative control (no program)	negative control (no program)	negative control (no program)	—

## Required Material

### Note

Please make sure that the entire supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution.

- Nucleofector™ 96-well Shuttle System (Nucleofector™ Device, version IIS; 96-well Shuttle™ Device; laptop with 96-well Shuttle™ Software)
- Supplemented 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution at room temperature
- Supplied Nucleocuvette™ Plates
- Supplied pmaxGFP™ Vector, stock solution 1 µg/µl

### Note

Volume of substrate solution added to each sample should not exceed 10 % of the total reaction volume (2 µl for 20 µl reactions). For positive control using pmaxGFP™ Vector, please dilute the stock solution to reach the appropriate working concentration.

- Substrate of interest, highly purified, preferably by using endotoxin free kits; A260 : A280 ratio should be at least 1.8
- Nucleocuvette™ compatible tips: epT.I.P.S. (US/CDN: Eppendorf North America, Cat. No. 2491.431, Rest of World: Eppendorf AG, Cat. No. 0030073.266) or Matrix TallTips™ (Matrix Technologies Corp., Cat. No. 7281). Before using other types of pipette tips, please ensure they reach the bottom of the Nucleocuvette™ Wells without getting stuck
- 96-well culture plates or culture plates of your choice
- For trypsinization: Please use trypsin as recommended by the cell supplier e.g. ReagentPack™ Subculture Reagent Kit containing trypsin/EDTA, HEPES Buffered Saline Solution (HEPES-BSS) and Trypsin Neutralizing Solution (TNS) (Lonza; Cat. No. CC-5034)
- Appropriate volume of culture media at 37°C (160 µl per sample); please use media as recommended by the cell supplier e.g. FGM-2 BulletKit™ (Lonza; Cat. No. CC-3132)
- Appropriate number of cells (1×10<sup>5</sup> cells per sample)
- Minimal cell number: 5×10<sup>4</sup> cells (a lower cell number may lead to a major increase in cell mortality)

## 1. Pre Nucleofection™

### Note

Transfection results may be source-dependent.

### Cell Culture Recommendations

- 1.1 Replace medium every 2–4 days
- 1.2 Cells should be passaged after reaching 70–90 % confluency
- 1.3 Do not use cells after passage 14 for Nucleofection™ (for adult cells lower passage numbers are recommended)
- 1.4 Cells should be passaged 2–4 days before Nucleofection™ depending on growth rate of cells

### Note

Culture conditions may differ between cell types. Please follow your established procedure or the supplier's recommendations.

### Trypsinization

#### Note

Please follow your established procedure or the supplier's recommendations (e.g. for NHDF-adult fibroblasts [Lonza; Cat. No. CC-2511] follow procedure described below).

- 1.5 Remove media from the cultured cells and wash cells once with HEPES-BSS
- 1.6 For harvesting, incubate the cells ~5 minutes at 37°C with recommended volume of indicated trypsinization reagent (please see required material)
- 1.7 Neutralize trypsinization reaction with TNS once the majority of the cells (>90 %) have been detached

## 2. Nucleofection™

### One Nucleofection™ Sample Contains

- $1 \times 10^5$  cells
- 0.4–1 µg plasmid DNA (in 1–2 µl H<sub>2</sub>O or TE) or 0.4 µg pmaxGFP™ Vector
- 20 µl Nucleofector™ Solution

- 2.1 Please make sure that the entire supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution
- 2.2 Start Nucleofector™ 96-well Shuttle™ Software, verify device connection and upload experimental parameter file (for details see Manual "Nucleofector™ 96-well Shuttle™ System")
- 2.3 Select appropriate Nucleofector™ Program. Please try all 7 Nucleofector™ Programs (96-CA-137, 96-CM-138, 96-DS-150, 96-EH-100, 96-EN-150, 96-EO-114 and 96-FF-113) initially with both Nucleofector™ Solutions to determine the most appropriate Nucleofection™ Condition for your specific fibroblast cell type

- 2.4 Prepare cell culture plates by filling appropriate number of wells with desired volume of recommended culture media, e.g. 80 µl\* (see comments at the end of this chapter) for one well of a 96-well plate and pre-incubate/equilibrate plates in a humidified 37°C/5 % CO<sub>2</sub> incubator
- 2.5 Pre-warm an aliquot of culture media to 37 °C (80 µl\* per sample)
- 2.6 Prepare 0.4–1 µg plasmid DNA or 0.4 µg pmaxGFP™ Vector
- 2.7 Harvest the cells by trypsinization (please see 1.5–1.7)
- 2.8 Count an aliquot of the trypsinized cells and determine cell density
- 2.9 Centrifuge the required number of cells ( $1 \times 10^5$  cells per sample) at 90×g for 10 minutes at room temperature
- 2.10 Resuspend the cell pellet carefully in 20 µl room temperature 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution per sample

### A: One or several substrates (DNAs or RNAs) in multiples

- Prepare mastermixes by dividing cell suspension according to number of substrates
- Add required amount of substrates to each aliquot (max. 2 µl per sample)
- Transfer 20 µl of mastermixes into the wells of the 96-well Nucleocuvette™ Modules

### B: Multiple substrates (e.g. Library Transfection)

- Pipette 20 µl of cell suspension into each well of a sterile U- or V-bottom 96-well microtiter plate
- Add 2 µl substrates (maximum) to each well
- Transfer 20 µl of cells with substrates into the wells of the 96-well Nucleocuvette™ Modules

### Note

It is advisable to pre-dispense each cell suspension into a sterile round-bottom 96-well plate or to pipet from a pipetting reservoir for multi-channel pipettes. Use a multi-channel or single-channel pipette with suitable pipette tips. As leaving cells in 96-well Nucleofector™ Solution for extended periods of time may lead to reduced transfection efficiency and viability it is important to work as quickly as possible. Make sure the sample covers the bottom of the well, if necessary gently tap the Nucleocuvette™ Plate. Avoid air bubbles while pipetting.

- 2.11 Place 96-well Nucleocuvette™ Plate with closed lid into the retainer of the 96-well Shuttle™. Well "A1" must be in upper left position
- 2.12 Start 96-well Nucleofection™ Process by either pressing "Upload and start" in the 96-well Shuttle™ Software or pressing "Upload" in the 96-well Shuttle™ Software and then the "Start" button at the 96-well Shuttle™ (for both options please refer to the respective Manual)
- 2.13 After retainer opening, carefully remove the 96-well Nucleocuvette™ Plate from the retainer
- 2.14 Incubate the 96-well Nucleocuvette™ Plate 10 minutes at room temperature

- 2.15 After incubation resuspend cells with desired volume of pre-warmed media (maximum cuvette volume 200 µl). Mix cells by gently pipetting up and down two to three times. Recommendation for 96-well plates: Resuspend cells in 80 µl of pre-warmed media\*
- 2.16 Plate desired amount of cells in culture system of your choice. Recommendation for 96-well plates: Transfer 20µl of resuspended cells to 80 µl pre-warmed media prepared in 96-well culture plates\*

**\* Note**

The indicated cell numbers and volumes have been found to produce optimal 96-well Nucleofection™ Results in most cases, however, depending on your specific needs you may wish to test an extended range of cell numbers. Cell numbers and volumes can be adapted such that fewer cells are transferred or duplicate plates can be seeded.

### 3. Post Nucleofection™

- 3.1 Incubate the cells in a humidified 37 °C/5 % CO<sub>2</sub> incubator until analysis. Gene expression is often detectable after only 4–8 hours.

## Additional Information

### Up-To-Date List of all Nucleofector™ References

[www.lonza.com/nucleofection-citations](http://www.lonza.com/nucleofection-citations)

### Technical Assistance and Scientific Support

#### USA/Canada

Tel 800 521 0390 (toll-free)

Fax 301 845 8338

[scientific.support@lonza.com](mailto:scientific.support@lonza.com)

#### Europe and Rest of World

Tel +49 221 99199 400

Fax +49 221 99199 499

[scientific.support.eu@lonza.com](mailto:scientific.support.eu@lonza.com)

## [www.lonza.com](http://www.lonza.com)

Lonza Cologne GmbH – 50829 Cologne, Germany

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