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EpiTect[®] ChIP qPCR Array Handbook

For real-time PCR based pathway or disease-
focused profiling of chromatin
immunoprecipitation (ChIP) samples



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Product Use Limitations

EpiTect ChIP qPCR Arrays are 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.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Introduction	4
II.	Materials Provided	8
III.	Additional Materials Required	9
IV.	Protocol	11
	A. ChIP DNA Sample Preparation	13
	B. Performing Real-Time PCR	18
	C. ChIP PCR Array Data Acquisition Real-Time	22
	D. ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis	24
VI.	Troubleshooting and Frequently Asked Questions	28
	Appendix: $\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}$ Data Analysis Method & Bibliography	29

I. Background and Introduction

In eukaryotic cells, chromatin is a dynamic complex of DNA, RNA, and proteins that makes up chromosomes. The basic unit of chromatin is the nucleosome, which is composed of ~147 base pairs of DNA wrapped around an octamer of four core histones (H2A, H2B, H3, and H4). Chromatin in a non-dividing cell can be divided into two functional states: euchromatin or heterochromatin. Euchromatin is often (but not always) enriched with genes in active transcriptional states and plays a central role in the regulation of gene expression. Conversely, heterochromatin primarily consists of repetitive sequences, and repressed genes associated with morphogenesis or differentiation, imprinting and X chromosome inactivation. Heterochromatin is also a prevalent chromatin state among eukaryotes, which has crucial functions in controlling chromosomal stability and the prevention of DNA mutations and translocations.

Histones are subjected to several types of modifications, including acetylation, methylation and phosphorylation. These modifications change dynamically and co-ordinately on multiple genomic sites to regulate gene expression. For example, in activated gene regions there is an enrichment of modified histones such as H3ac, H4ac, H3K4me2 or H3K4me3, whereas the enrichment of modified histones H3K9me3, H3K20me3 or H4K27me3 are implicated in gene inactivation or silencing.

Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP) is a unique technology for the analysis of the in vivo association of a protein of interest with specific genomic regions in native chromatin microenvironments. Current approaches for the analysis of ChIP-enriched DNA samples rely mainly on site-by-site detection of limited genomic regions using PCR, or screening large scale genomic regions by array hybridization (ChIP-on-Chip) or direct sequencing (ChIP-Seq).

Our EpiTect ChIP qPCR Array is a 96-well or 384-well PCR plate containing SYBR Green primers specially designed for application-focused panels of genomic sites allowing for a specific and quantitative analysis of ChIP DNA samples. EpiTect ChIP qPCR Arrays combine the advantage of Real-Time PCR dynamic performance with the ability to detect ChIP-enriched genomic DNA on multiple sites simultaneously. The global profiling feature of the ChIP PCR Array eliminates the low throughput of single site-by-site detection. The product greatly facilitates the profiling of ChIP DNA enriched for function-relevant genomic loci. The results will aid in the understanding of the coordinated and dynamic regulation of multiple genes during cell development, differentiation, and tumor-genesis.

To complete the EpiTect ChIP qPCR Array procedure (Figure 1), all you need to do is prepare your experimental samples (about one million cells per ChIP assay), and perform the chromatin immuno-precipitation using our EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit and EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kit for optimal results. Or you can follow another methodology of your choice. Subsequently, mix your purified ChIP DNA with our instrument-specific and ready-to-use RT² PCR Mastermixes and aliquot the mixture into a ChIP-Array plate of your choice. Finally, perform PCR and determine the level enrichment of your ChIP DNA samples by analyzing your Real-Time PCR raw data with our Excel-based ChIP PCR Array Data analysis template. The whole procedure can be easily completed in one or two days.

The streamlined EpiTect ChIP qPCR Array quickly delivers a simple and robust approach for the profiling of a number of ChIP DNA samples with Real-Time qPCR precision. The reliability and simplicity of the ChIP PCR Array makes this technology feasible for routine use in any research laboratory.

Benefits of the EpiTect ChIP qPCR Arrays:

- ❖ **Function or Pathway Focused:** arrays represent a panel of genomic sites relevant to a biological function or pathway.
- ❖ **Reliable, Sensitive, & Specific:** simple and streamlined procedure for simultaneous analysis of multiple genomic sites with Real-Time qPCR precision and analytical sensitivity.
- ❖ **Feasible to Routine Use:** brings ChIP profiling on a large set of samples to almost any molecular biology application lab with a Real-Time PCR instrument.

High-throughput profiling capabilities with Real-Time PCR performance!

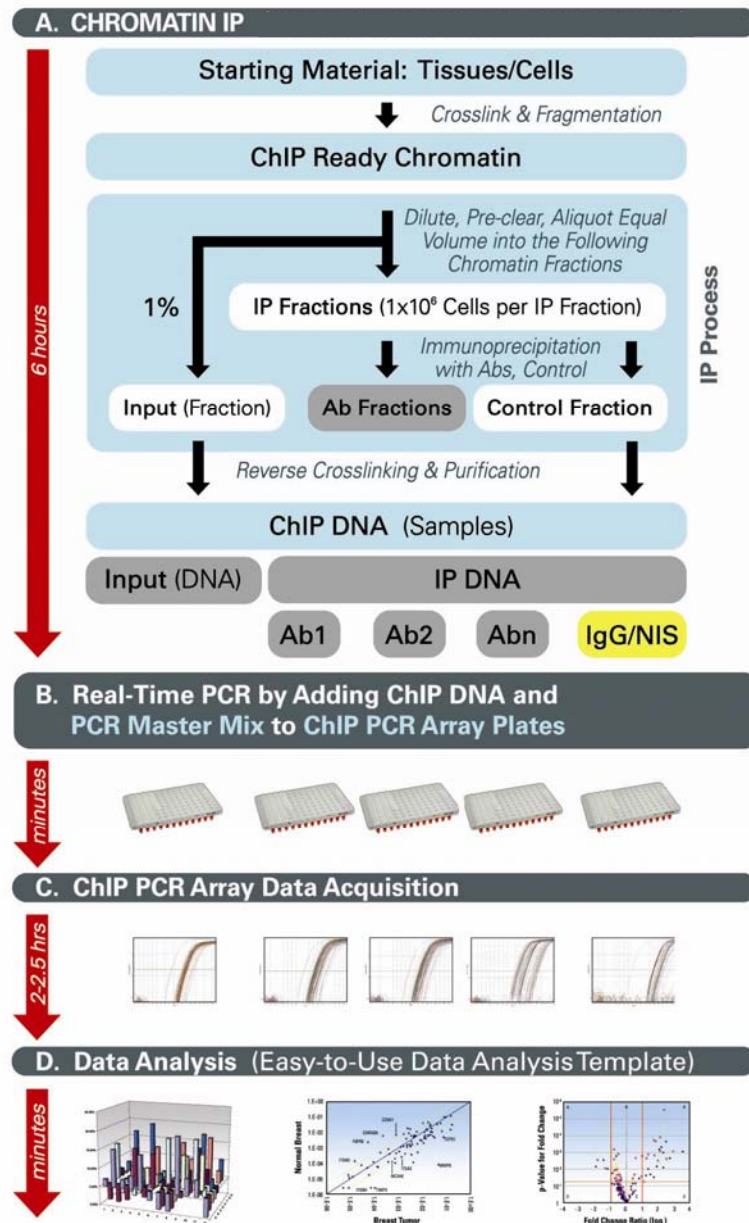


Figure 1: Overview of the EpiTest ChIP qPCR Array procedure.

A.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10	G11	G12
B	G13	G14	G15	G16	G17	G18	G19	G20	G21	G22	G23	G24
C	G25	G26	G27	G28	G29	G30	G31	G32	G33	G34	G35	G36
D	G37	G38	G39	G40	G41	G42	G43	G44	G45	G46	G47	G48
E	G49	G50	G51	G52	G53	G54	G55	G56	G57	G58	G59	G60
F	G61	G62	G63	G64	G65	G66	G67	G68	G69	G70	G71	G72
G	G73	G74	G75	G76	G77	G78	G79	G80	G81	G82	G83	G84
H	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	PPC	PPC

B.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	G1	G1	G2	G2	G3	G3	G4	G4	G5	G5	G6	G6	G7	G7	G8	G8	G9	G9	G10	G10	G11	G11	G12	G12
B	G1	G1	G2	G2	G3	G3	G4	G4	G5	G5	G6	G6	G7	G7	G8	G8	G9	G9	G10	G10	G11	G11	G12	G12
C	G13	G13	G14	G14	G15	G15	G16	G16	G17	G17	G18	G18	G19	G19	G20	G20	G21	G21	G22	G22	G23	G23	G24	G24
D	G13	G13	G14	G14	G15	G15	G16	G16	G17	G17	G18	G18	G19	G19	G20	G20	G21	G21	G22	G22	G23	G23	G24	G24
E	G25	G25	G26	G26	G27	G27	G28	G28	G29	G29	G30	G30	G31	G31	G32	G32	G33	G33	G34	G34	G35	G35	G36	G36
F	G25	G25	G26	G26	G27	G27	G28	G28	G29	G29	G30	G30	G31	G31	G32	G32	G33	G33	G34	G34	G35	G35	G36	G36
G	G37	G37	G38	G38	G39	G39	G40	G40	G41	G41	G42	G42	G43	G43	G44	G44	G45	G45	G46	G46	G47	G47	G48	G48
H	G37	G37	G38	G38	G39	G39	G40	G40	G41	G41	G42	G42	G43	G43	G44	G44	G45	G45	G46	G46	G47	G47	G48	G48
I	G49	G49	G50	G50	G51	G51	G52	G52	G53	G53	G54	G54	G55	G55	G56	G56	G57	G57	G58	G58	G59	G59	G60	G60
J	G49	G49	G50	G50	G51	G51	G52	G52	G53	G53	G54	G54	G55	G55	G56	G56	G57	G57	G58	G58	G59	G59	G60	G60
K	G61	G61	G62	G62	G63	G63	G64	G64	G65	G65	G66	G66	G67	G67	G68	G68	G69	G69	G70	G70	G71	G71	G72	G72
L	G61	G61	G62	G62	G63	G63	G64	G64	G65	G65	G66	G66	G67	G67	G68	G68	G69	G69	G70	G70	G71	G71	G72	G72
M	G73	G73	G74	G74	G75	G75	G76	G76	G77	G77	G78	G78	G79	G79	G80	G80	G81	G81	G82	G82	G83	G83	G84	G84
N	G73	G73	G74	G74	G75	G75	G76	G76	G77	G77	G78	G78	G79	G79	G80	G80	G81	G81	G82	G82	G83	G83	G84	G84
O	C1	C1	C2	C2	C3	C3	C4	C4	C5	C5	C6	C6	C7	C7	C8	C8	C9	C9	C10	C10	PPC	PPC	PPC	PPC
P	C1	C1	C2	C2	C3	C3	C4	C4	C5	C5	C6	C6	C7	C7	C8	C8	C9	C9	C10	C10	PPC	PPC	PPC	PPC

Figure 2: Layout of the Cataloged EpiTect ChIP qPCR Arrays

(A) Catalog 96-well ChIP PCR Arrays

- Wells A1 through G12 contain a Real-Time ChIP qPCR assay for genomic sites from the same biological pathway, disease state or genes that are functionally-related.
- Wells H1 through H10 contain control Real-Time ChIP qPCR assays (C1-C10) to ensure the specificity and efficiency of the enrichment.
- Well H11 and well H12 contain replicate Positive PCR Controls (PPC). The replicate PPC control wells also indicate inter-well and inter-plate consistency.

(B) Catalog 384-Well ChIP PCR Array

- The 384-well format of the PCR Arrays includes four replicates of the same 96-well format, in which each set of wells contains the same primer set represented by the 96-well designations (For example, a set of wells A1, A2, B1, B2 the same primer set labeled with G1).
- Wells A1 through N24 contain a Real-Time ChIP qPCR assay for genomic sites from the same biological pathway, disease state or genes that are functionally-related.
- Wells O1 to O10 through P1 to P10 contain control Real-Time ChIP qPCR assays (C1-C10) to ensure the specificity and efficiency of the enrichment.
- Wells O11, O12 and P11, P12 contain replicate Positive PCR Controls (PPC). The replicate PPC control wells also indicate inter-well and inter-plate consistency.

Customized ChIP PCR Arrays (EpiTect ChIP Custom qPCR Array, Cat. no. 334111) will have a customer specified layout. The product specification sheet enclosed with the arrays will reiterate the layout and will list the genes included on the array.

II. Materials Provided:

All components included in this kit are shipped at ambient temperature but must be stored at -20 °C upon receipt. Quality is guaranteed up to 6 months of receipt if stored properly at -20 °C.

EpiTect ChIP qPCR Arrays are available in six different plate formats, each tailored to a specific subset of Real-Time PCR instruments and block format. Formats A, C, D, and F are for 96-well plates, while Formats E and G are for 384-well plates.

Format	For Real-Time Instruments	Plate
A	ABI “ standard ” blocks: 5700, 7000, 7300, 7500, 7700, 7900HT (96-block) Bio-Rad: iCycler®, iQ5, MyiQ, Chromo4 (MJ Research) Eppendorf: MasterCycler® ep RealPlex® Stratagene: Mx3005p®, Mx3000p® Takara: TP-800	96-well
C	ABI: 7500 FAST block, 7900HT FAST block, StepOnePlus™	96-well
D	Bio-Rad: CFX96™, Opticon® and Opticon 2 (MJ Research) Stratagene: Mx4000®	96-well
E	ABI: 7900HT (384-well block) Bio-Rad: CFX384™	384-well
F	Roche: LightCycler 480 96-well block	96-well
G	Roche: LightCycler 480 384-well block	384-well

NOTE:

1. The format of the ChIP PCR Array is indicated by the last digit of the catalog number. Confirm that you have the correct ChIP PCR Array format for your instrument before starting the experiment.
2. The 96-well ChIP PCR Arrays (Formats A, C, D, and F) are shipped in sets of four (4), twelve (12), or twenty-four (24), while the 384-well ChIP PCR Arrays (Formats E and G) are shipped in sets of Two (2), Four (4) or twelve (12).
3. Each ChIP PCR Arrays shipment includes the arrays and either twelve (12) optical thin-wall 8-cap strips (Formats A and D) or one (1) optical adhesive film (Formats C, E, F, and G) per array.
4. Each 96x4 Format 384-Well ChIP PCR Array (Formats E and G) includes one set of four 384EZLoad™ Covers (Catalog #PA-384) for each ChIP PCR Array provided in the package. Each 384EZLoad™ Cover is for Single Use ONLY.

III. Additional Materials Required:

A. EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit

Catalog Number 334471

The EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit contains sufficient reagents to perform 12 Chromatin Immunoprecipitations and DNA Purifications. The Kit yields high quality ChIP DNA suitable as template for Real-Time PCR analysis (See Figure 4 on page 17 and Figure 5 on page 18)

B. EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kit

Catalog Number 334481

More information regarding the EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kit can be found at (<http://www.sabiosciences.com/chipgradeantibody.php>).

OR other ChIP-Grade antibody of choice can be used (See Page 12).

C. RT²SYBR[®] Green qPCR Mastermixes:

MANDATORY for a Complete and Successful Experiment

Be sure to select the correct master mix appropriate for the Real-Time PCR instrument available at your laboratory and the correct master mix volume for your chosen PCR Array format.

1. 96-Well PCR Arrays

RT² SYBR[®] Green ROX qPCR Mastermix:

Designed for:

All ABI and Stratagene Instrumentation

Eppendorf mastercycler[®] ep *realplex* Instruments with ROX filter set

Catalog Number

Size

330520

For 2 ChIP PCR Array plates

330522

For 12 ChIP PCR Array plates

330523

For 24 ChIP PCR Array plates

RT² SYBR[®] Green Fluor qPCR Mastermix:

Designed for:

BioRad iCycler[®], MyiQ[™], and iQ[™]5 Instrumentation

Catalog Number

Size

330510

For 2 ChIP PCR Array plates

330512

For 12 ChIP PCR Array plates

330513

For 24 ChIP PCR Array plates

RT² SYBR[®] Green qPCR Mastermix:

Specifically designed for instrumentation that does not require a reference dye:

BioRad CFX96, BioRad Opticon[™], Opticon[™] 2 & Chromo[™] 4 (MJ Research)

Roche LightCycler[®] 480 System

Eppendorf mastercycler[®] ep *realplex* Instruments without ROX filter set

Catalog Number

Size

330500

For 2 ChIP PCR Array plates

330502

For 12 ChIP PCR Array plates

330503

For 24 ChIP PCR Array plates

2. 384-Well PCR Arrays: 96 x 4 Format

RT² SYBR[®] Green ROX qPCR Mastermix:

Specifically designed for All ABI and Stratagene Instrumentation

Catalog Number

Size

330521

For 4 384-well ChIP PCR Array plates

RT² SYBR[®] Green Fluor qPCR Mastermix:

Specifically designed for:

Instrumentation that requires the Fluorescein Reference Dye

Catalog Number

Size

330511

For 4 384-well ChIP PCR Array plates

RT² SYBR[®] Green qPCR Mastermix:

Specifically designed for instrumentation that does not require a reference dye:

BioRad CFX384

Roche LightCycler[®] 480 System

Catalog Number

Size

330501

For 4 384-well ChIP PCR Array plates

D. Real-Time PCR instrumentation and other equipment:

1. For recommendations on specific Real-Time PCR instruments (thermal cyclers with Fluorescent detection), see the list of master mixes and plate formats above.
2. Calibrated Multi-Channel Pipette.
3. DNase-free / PCR Grade water (H₂O), pipette tips and tubes.

NOTE: *The ChIP PCR Arrays can only be used in 96-well and 384-well Real-Time PCR Instruments, PCR Arrays cannot be used in the Cepheid SmartCycler[®], the Roche LightCycler[®] 2.0 or the Rotor-Gene[®] Q.*

IV. Protocol:

Preparing a DNase-free Workspace and avoiding DNA Contamination

For first time users it is recommended to read through the entire protocol before starting an experiment. For experienced users a quick guide is included. ChIP-enriched genomic DNA samples are usually limited in quantities and susceptible to degradations by DNases. Maintaining a DNase-free environment is essential for successful and reproducible results.

For accurate and reproducible PCR results, it is very important to avoid contamination of the assay with foreign DNA. Any DNA contamination will artificially inflate the SYBR Green signal, yielding skewed profiles and/or false positive signals. The most common sources of DNA contamination are the products of previous experiments spread into the air of your working environment. Please follow the recommendations below on how to set up and maintain a working environment free of DNA contamination.

1. Wear gloves throughout the procedure. Use only fresh PCR-grade reagents (H₂O) and lab ware (tips and tubes).
2. Physically separate the workspaces used for PCR setup and post-PCR processing or non-PCR operations. Decontaminate your PCR workspace and lab ware (pipette barrels, tube racks, etc.) before each new experiment with UV light or 10% bleach to render any contaminating DNA ineffective in PCR. Ultraviolet light will induce the formation of thymidine dimers and bleach will chemically inactivate and degrade any DNA.
3. Close all tubes containing PCR products once you are finished adding or removing volumes. Before discarding any lab ware (tips or tubes) containing PCR products or other DNA, treat these items with 10% bleach.
4. Do not leave lab ware (tubes and tip boxes) exposed to the air for long periods of time.
5. Do not open any post-PCR tubes/plates in the PCR setup working area. Opening tubes/plates after the run can release PCR products into the air which will contaminate and confound the results of future Real-Time PCR experiments.

Master Mix and Other ChIP-related Reagents Considerations

The performance of our ChIP PCR Arrays is only guaranteed with RT² qPCR Mastermixes, EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit and the EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kit. Therefore, the use of the complete **EpiTect ChIP system** is absolutely essential for obtaining optimal Real-Time PCR profiling results.

PCR Reagents

The chemically-modified and tightly controlled HotStart enzyme and other proprietary chemical components in our RT² qPCR Mastermixes ensure accurate SYBR Green based PCR results by preventing the formation of primer dimers and other nonspecific PCR products. They are also helpful in ensuring the high amplification efficiencies even for

genomic regions that are difficult to amplify. When we test other sources of enzymes with our PCR Arrays, we frequently saw primer dimers and other non-specific products that confound SYBR Green-based Real-Time PCR detection. Because each instrument uses a different reference dye to normalize their optics, make sure that you select the correct master mix for the Real-Time PCR instrumentation at your laboratory.

Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP)

The results from the ChIP PCR Array system are based on the efficient enrichment of specific genomic loci using ChIP Assay. The **EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit** is a simple and robust ChIP preparation kit. It works with an optimized Immunoprecipitation buffer system to improve efficiency and specificity of antibody binding to chromatin. More importantly, the kit is specially developed to perform the reverse cross-linking and DNA purification highly efficiently. Therefore the user will obtain high yields and high-quality ChIP DNA free of inhibitors, greatly facilitating Real-Time PCR profiling.

ChIP-Grade Antibodies are a critical component of the system in order to ensure a reliable ChIP PCR Array profiling. The EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kit provide ChIP-Grade Antibodies that have been rigorously validated for specificity and efficiency of genomic DNA enrichment associated with specific transcription factors, modified or unmodified histones, or other nuclear factors. The positive and negative control PCR primer set, included in each antibody kit, guarantee a successful enrichment of specific genomic loci. The positive control PCR primer set detects enrichment of well-characterized binding site for the relevant nuclear factor.

An optimization of the Immunoprecipitation conditions will be required if you follow your own protocol and/or use a specific antibody of interest. In addition, a quantitative analysis of ChIP-enriched DNA used for ChIP PCR Array will have to be performed. Further details can be found in the ChIP Preparation and Quality Control section (page.13).

A. ChIP Preparation and Quality Control:

For ChIP Preparations and Quality control follow instructions specify in the user manual included in the EpiTest ChIP OneDay Kit and EpiTest ChIP Antibody Kits using the primer set provided in the Antibody kit. If you follow your own protocol and/or use another antibody of interest, you might find the following considerations useful.

ChIP Preparation

Definitions used in EpiTest ChIP System

ChIP Sample: Starting material for ChIP assay (tissue or cells).

NOTE: *ChIP can be performed with a single ChIP sample (detection of protein/DNA association in one condition such as histone modification), or multiple samples dependent on experimental design, such as knockout vs. wild type; treated vs. untreated; or a time course.*

ChIP Ready Chromatin: Prepared chromatin after fragmentation step ready for immunoprecipitation process.

IP Fraction: ChIP Ready Chromatin from each ChIP sample must be diluted, pre-cleared, and divided into equal aliquots for immunoprecipitation which are called IP fractions. Therefore an IP Fraction represents the fraction of diluted and pre-cleared ChIP Ready Chromatin used for the actual immunoprecipitation step with antibody of interest, control antibody, such as normal IgG or non-immune serum (NIS).

NOTE: *One ChIP sample has to be sufficient for two or more IP fractions.*

Input Fraction or Input: As an input control, 1% of **IP Fraction** from each **ChIP Sample** is set aside before the Immunoprecipitation step.

NOTE: *One ChIP sample needs only one Input control.*

Negative Control Fraction: The **IP fraction** of chromatin mixed with normal IgG or NIS that serves as negative control for ChIP-grade antibodies. Normal IgG or NIS pulls down non-specific DNA, providing a measurement of the background or noise for the ChIP assay.

Antibody Fraction: The **IP fraction** interacted with the antibody of interest to pull down its associated genomic DNA sites. This provides an estimation of the number of specific genomic sites bound or associated with the nuclear factor of interest *in vivo*.

Input DNA: Genomic DNA directly purified from **Input fraction**. It provides a measurement of the total number of interested genomic site(s) included into the **IP fraction** and serves as reference control for real time PCR performance and data normalization.

IP DNA: Genomic DNA purified from **IP fraction** after immunoprecipitation with an antibody of interest, or normal IgG/NIS.

ChIP DNA (Sample): Genomic DNA from Input DNA or ChIP enriched IP DNA.

1. Starting Material for Biological Experiment

The ChIP PCR Array yields reliable results with as little as one million cells per array plate. However, the optimal amount of starting material depends on the relative abundance of the protein-associated DNA and the enrichment efficiency of the ChIP assay with the antibody of choice. Low amounts of starting material will affect the efficiency of the ChIP enrichment. The high abundance of the protein-associated DNA immunoprecipitated with highly efficient antibodies, such as anti-H3K4me3, H3K4me2 or H3ac, requires fewer cells, but no less than 0.5 million cells. Lower amounts of starting material will yield a smaller number of positive calls and will increase false negative calls.

On the contrary, lower abundance of the protein-associated DNA or lower efficient antibodies will require more cells. A high amount of starting material will yield a greater number of positive calls though it will also increase background levels and possibly generate more false positive calls.

In general it is recommended that at least one million mammalian cells are required for each IP fraction (as defined above). For example, a 10-cm culture dish of HeLa cells at 70-85% confluence contains approximately 4 to 6 million cells. This amount of cells is sufficient for three up to five ChIP fractions after carefully harvesting the cell lysate following cross-linking step.

NOTE: *The actual amounts of cell or tissue samples required to produce high quality, quantitative results may need to be determined empirically for each experiment. Once determined, this amount should be applied uniformly for all samples within an experiment for a consistent performance.*

2. Cross-linking and Chromatin Preparation

Follow the recommendation in your ChIP kit or follow your own protocol.

For Native ChIP (without cross-linking) using antibodies of interest, or preparation of enzyme digested chromatin, follow the instructions in the related protocols.

3. Chromatin DNA Fragmentation by Sonication

For the best balance between resolution, sensitivity and IP efficiency, it is recommended to fragment the chromatin DNA to an average size between 500 and 1500 base pairs as judged by agarose gel electrophoresis. As shown in Figure 3, the reverse cross-linking and genomic DNA isolation are required for validation of the ChIP fragments. Follow the recommendations specified in your ChIP kit or follow your own protocol. The size of chromatin fragments sheared by an enzyme should be controlled as well to ensure good results during the PCR amplification step.

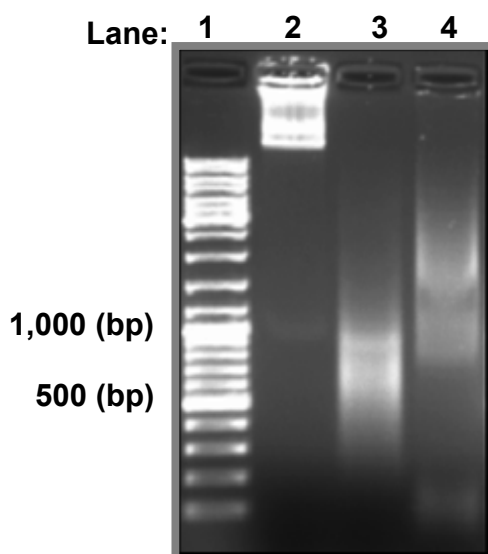


Figure 3. Characterization of Chromatin Fragmentation. The fast cross-linking reverse method provided in the EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit permits the analysis of sonicated samples by agarose gel electrophoresis in less than 1 hour. Lanes: (1) 1.0 kb ladder; (2) Chromatin before sonication; (3) Sonicated chromatin **after** reverse cross-linking and DNA extraction following the EpiTect ChIP OneDay Handbook; (4) Sonicated chromatin **before** reverse cross-linking and DNA extraction.

4. Immunoprecipitation (Multiple IP Fractions per Sample)

The ChIP Ready Chromatin from one ChIP sample will generate the following IP fractions:

Input Fraction: One Input fraction for each ChIP sample (experimental sample)

IP fraction: Two or more IP fractions for each ChIP sample. Each IP fraction requires the ChIP-Ready Chromatin from one million cells. Divide the ChIP-Ready Chromatin accurately and evenly into the follow equal IP fractions:

Control Fraction = IgG/NIS (required)

Ab Fraction (at least one required)

Anti-RNA Polymerase II Antibody (optional)

The Pol II Antibody is used as a positive control for a successful ChIP assay in combination with the ChIP PCR primers for the GAPDH proximal promoter. This fraction can also provide a measurement of the transcriptional activity when used with other proximal promoter ChIP qPCR assays.

5. Reverse Cross-Linking

Follow the recommendations in your ChIP kit or follow your own protocol.

6. DNA Purification

Follow your previously used methodology or the recommendations in your ChIP kit. Adjust the final volume of each ChIP DNA sample to **200- μ L** using the elution buffer provided or DNase free H₂O. The quality of the genomic DNA from ChIP DNA sample can be determined in the following section.

ChIP DNA Quality Control

1. Specificity and Efficiency of ChIP Enriched DNA

The results of ChIP Array are dependent on the DNA quantity enriched by ChIP Assay, and most importantly, on the specific localization of these enriched DNA bound to transcription factors, or associated with modified histones. For example, it is well defined that many modified histone marks have distinct distribution patterns associated with either transcriptionally active euchromatin, or transcriptionally inactive euchromatin, or heterochromatin. We provide a panel of Real-Time PCR primers for a complete and reliable analysis of the histone modifications that regulate chromatin structure and influence gene activity (Figure 4).

The results of the ChIP Array are dependent on the quantity of DNA enriched by the ChIP Assay. In particular, the amount of enriched DNA at specific genomic loci is directly related to the specificity and efficiency of the antibody used. It is well known that many modified histone markers have distinct distribution patterns associated with transcriptional active euchromatin, transcriptional inactive euchromatin, or heterochromatin. For a reliable analysis of the **histone modifications distribution** a control panel of Real-Time PCR primers was developed targeting different genomic loci associated with transcriptional active, inactive and silenced genomic regions. With these controls, the specificity and efficiency of ChIP DNA enrichment can be reliably analyzed (Figure 4). For details, please check our website: <http://www.sabiosciences.com/chipgradeantibody.php>.

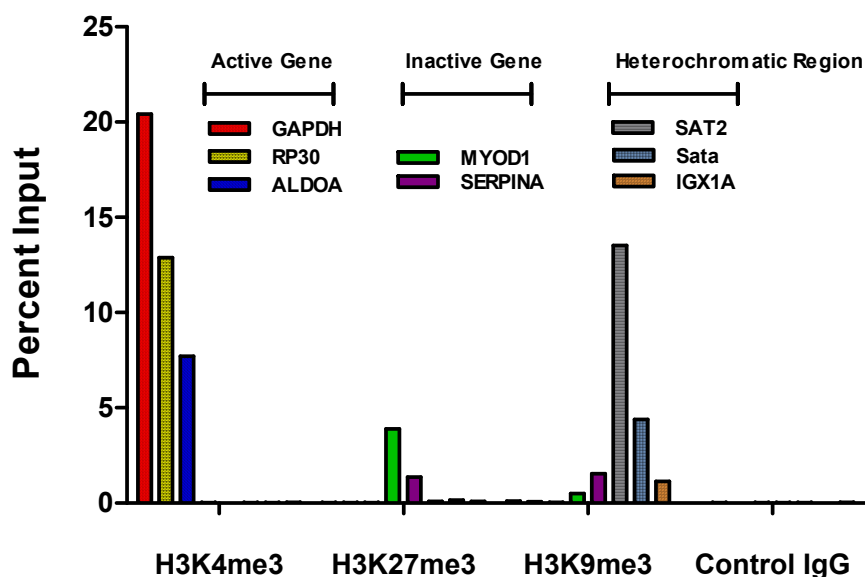


Figure 4. Histone Modifications and Gene Activity. Antibodies from EpiTect ChIP Antibody Kits against modified histones (H3K4me3, H3K27me3, and H3K9me3) or control IgG were used for chromatin immunoprecipitation from HeLa cells following the instructions specified in the User Manual. Each ChIP DNA sample was analyzed by Real Time PCR using primers specific for the transcriptional active genes (GAPDH, RPL30 and ALDOA), transcriptional inactive genes (MYOD1, SERPINA1), silenced repeats (SAT2, Sat α) and an open reading frame (ORF) free region (IGX1A). The results are shown as the percentage of co-precipitated DNA relative to the input DNA. The antibodies against H3K4me3, H3K27me3, and H3K9me3 specifically enrich genomic DNA at actively transcribed euchromatin, transcriptional inactive euchromatin, or silent heterochromatic region respectively. In contrast, the control IgG showed minimum background among all the regions analyzed, demonstrating the efficiency and specificity of the ChIP Assay on genomic DNA enrichment.

2. Primer Sets for ChIP DNA enrichment QC

The primers sets listed below are designed for ChIP DNA associated with modified Histone antibodies, such as H3ac, H3ack9, H4ac, H3K4me2,3, H3K9me1,2,3, H3K27me3, H4K20me2,3, H2K79me3. Additional control primer sets are available for the Human and Mouse genome at <http://www.sabiosciences.com/chipgradeantibody.php>.

	Gene	Tile	HUMAN	MOUSE
Active Gene	GAPDH	+1	GPH110001C(+)01A	GPM1052368(+)01A
Inactive Gene	MYOD1	+1	GPH110002C(+)01A	GPM1039033(+)01A
Heterochromatin	SAT2	+ 1	GPH110003C(+)01A	
Heterochromatin	IAP	+ 1		GPM100002C(+)01A

3. ChIP DNA Quantity Needed for Real-Time PCR QC Analysis.

A typical ChIP Assay yields 100 to 200 μ L of IP DNA. The fold enrichment is independent of the volume of ChIP DNA used as a template in the Real-Time PCR assay, provided that the ChIP DNA samples are of high quality and free of PCR inhibitors (Figure 5). For QC analysis, we recommend starting with 1/100th (2 μ L) of purified ChIP DNA from either IP or

Input fraction a 25 μ L Real-Time PCR Assay (96-Well format), or 1/200th(1 μ L) for a 10 μ L Real-Time PCR Assay (384-Well format).

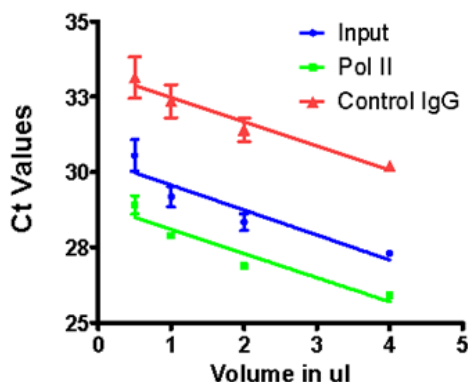


Figure 5. EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit ChIP DNA Free of Inhibitors of Real-Time PCR. ChIP Assay was performed with either RNA Polymerase II, or Control IgG using EpiTect ChIP OneDay Kit and RNA Polymerase II antibody Kit. Different volume (0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0 μ L) of Input DNA (diamonds), and IP DNA from either Pol II IP (circles) or IgG IP (triangles) were added to a Real-Time PCR assay using primers for the proximal promoter region of GAPDH. The calibration curve is generated based on the threshold cycle values. The data was fitted according to a linear regression model resulting in an R^2 of 0.9898 indicating a straight line. This implies that no inhibitors are present in the ChIP DNA preparations. Since the fold enrichment reflected by the C_t difference is no significant variation among the samples from different volumes, the results also demonstrate the reliability of the EpiTect ChIP System.

B. Performing Real-Time PCR:

Important considerations before starting PCR reaction

- *For consistent results, use the same Real-Time PCR instrument to generate all the data within a single experiment.*
- *The use of RT² SYBR Green qPCR Mastermixes is absolutely critical for obtaining accurate results from the ChIP PCR Array. Be sure to use the correct master mix for your instrument before continuing with this protocol (See Pages 9 and 10).*
- *The use of the correct ChIP PCR Array plate format is also critical to the success of this experiment. Be sure that you have the correct PCR Array format for your instrument before continuing with this protocol (See Page 8).*
- *The accuracy and precision of your pipetting will determine the consistency of your results. Be sure that all of your micro-pipettors are calibrated before beginning this procedure. Also, make sure not to introduce any bubbles into the wells of the PCR Array. Spin plate down before starting PCR.*
- *Do not use DEPC treated H₂O. Use high-quality, nuclease-free H₂O. If you are not sure whether you're RNase, DNase-free water has been DEPC treated, please check with the supplier.*

Step 1: Sample Preparation

Mix the following components in a 5-ml tube or a multi-channel reservoir:		
Plate Format:	96-well	384-well
	A, C, D, & F	E & G
2X RT ² qPCR Mastermix	1275 µl	550 µl
ChIP DNA Sample	180 µl	100 µl
DNase free ddH ₂ O	1095 µl	450 µl
Total Volume	2550 µl	1100 µl

NOTES:

1. This recipe provides an excess volume of ONLY ~ 150 µL (96-well format), or 140 µL (384-well format) per ChIP DNA sample. Very carefully add the cocktail to the PCR Array precisely as described below to insure that each well receives the required volume.
2. Save the remainder of the ChIP DNA at -20°C for troubleshooting purposes.

Step 2: Loading for the 96-Well PCR Arrays (Formats A, B, C, and D)

Please select your PCR Array Format for loading instructions.

Loading the 96-Well PCR Array Formats A, C, D, or F:

- a. **CAREFULLY** remove the PCR Array from its sealed bag.
- b. Add 25 µL of the **Experimental Cocktail** to each well of the PCR Array, preferably from a reservoir with an eight-channel pipettor (or a twelve-channel pipettor but only using eight tips). *Change pipet tips following each addition to avoid any cross-contamination between the wells or reactions.*
- c. Proceed to the next section (**STEP 3**) on “Performing Real-Time PCR Detection”.

Loading for the 384-Well PCR Array (Format E):

Each 384-well plate characterizes four samples in separate sets of 96-wells staggered from one another by only one well. The spacing between the tips of standard multi-channel pipettors will allow you to properly skip rows or columns when adding each sample. Be sure to load each sample into the correct set of wells. Use Figure 6 as a guide.

- a. **CAREFULLY** remove the PCR Array from its sealed bag.
- b. Load sample cocktails to appropriate wells of the PCR Array, preferably from a reservoir with an eight-channel pipettor (or a twelve-channel pipettor but only using eight tips), using the provided 384EZLoad™ Covers (Catalog no. 338125) and the figure below as a guide.

- Place Cover #1 (white) on the plate. Add 10 μ L of Sample 1 cocktail to the open wells. (Odd number wells of rows A, C, E, G, I, K, M & O). Remove & discard the cover.
- Place Cover #2 (yellow) on the plate. Add 10 μ L of Sample 2 cocktail to the open wells. (Even number wells of rows A, C, E, G, I, K, M & O). Remove & discard the cover.
- Place Cover #3 (black) on the plate. Add 10 μ L of Sample 3 cocktail to the open wells. (Odd number wells of rows B, D, F, H, J, L, N & P). Remove & discard the cover.
- Place Cover #4 (red) on the plate. Add 10 μ L of Sample 4 cocktail to the open wells. (Even number wells of rows B, D, F, H, J, L, N & P). Remove & discard the cover.

c. Proceed to the next section (**STEP 3**) on “Performing Real-Time PCR Detection”.

Sample #1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
B	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
C	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
D	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
E	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
F	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
G	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
H	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
I	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
J	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
K	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
L	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
M	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
N	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
O	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
P	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4

Sample #2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
B	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
C	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
D	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
E	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
F	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
G	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
H	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
I	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
J	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
K	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
L	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
M	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
N	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
O	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
P	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3

Sample #3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
B	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
C	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
D	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
E	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
F	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
G	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
H	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
I	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
J	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
K	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
L	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
M	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
N	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
O	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
P	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4

Sample #4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
B	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
C	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
D	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
E	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
F	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
G	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
H	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
I	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
J	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
K	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
L	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
M	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
N	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
O	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
P	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3

Figure 6: Loading Cocktail into a 384-well PCR Array. To load a 384-well format PCR Array, add 10 μ L of the Experimental Cocktail from each numbered sample into the staggered wells with the same number as indicated in the figure.

Step 3: Performing Real-Time PCR Detection

Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper operation and maintenance of your Real-Time instrument.

- a. **CAREFULLY** but tightly seal the PCR Array with the optical thin-wall 8-cap strips (Formats A and D) or with the optical adhesive film (Formats C, E, F, and G).
- b. **Centrifuge the plate** for 1 full minute at room temperature at 1000 g to remove air bubbles. Visually inspect the plate from underneath of the plate to ensure no bubbles are present in each well.

Bubbles remaining in the bottom of the wells of a PCR Array will interfere with results.

- c. Place the plate on ice while setting up the PCR cycling program below.
- d. Place one plate in your Real-Time thermal cycler. If recommended by your instrument's user manual, use a compression pad with the optical film-sealed plate formats.

NOTE: ChIP PCR Arrays containing experimental cocktail may be stored at -20°C wrapped in aluminum foil for up to one week until ready to run.

- e. Enter and run the appropriate program for your Real-Time instrument (below). If prompted by your instrument software, select "Absolute Quantitation" to begin.

NOTE: For additional help with instrument setup, see our Instrument-Specific Setup Instructions and Protocol Files at: www.SABiosciences.com/pcrarrayprotocolfiles.php

Use a **two-step cycling program** for the following instrumentation:

ABI: 5700, 7000, 7300, 7500, 7700, 7900HT BioRad: iCycler, iQ5, MyiQ Stratagene: Mx3000p, Mx3005p, Mx4000p Eppendorf: Mastercycler ep realplex	Cycles	Duration	Temperature
	1	10 minutes ¹	95 °C
	40	15 seconds	95 °C
		1 minute ²	60 °C

Use an **extended two-step cycling program** for the following instrumentation:

Roche*: LightCycler 480	Cycles	Duration	Temperature
	1	10 minutes ¹	95 °C
	45	15 seconds	95 °C
		1 minute ²	60 °C

***Attention** Roche LightCycler 480 Users: **Adjust the ramp rate to 1°C/sec.** Please refer to the Instrument Setup Guide at <http://sabiosciences.com/pcrarrayprotocolfiles.php> for more information on other **REQUIRED** changes to settings for Melt Curve Acquisition.

Use a **three-step cycling program** for the following instrumentation:

ABI: StepOnePlus BioRad: CFX96, CFX384, Opticon, Opticon 2, Chromo 4 (MJ Research) Takara: TP-800 All other instruments	Cycles	Duration	Temperature
	1	10 minutes ¹	95 °C
	40	15 seconds	95 °C
		30 to 40 seconds ^{2,3}	55°C
		30 seconds	72°C

¹ The 10-minute step at 95°C is required to activate the HotStart DNA polymerase.

² Detect and record SYBR Green fluorescence from every well during the annealing step of each cycle.

³ Different instruments need different lengths of time to detect the fluorescent signal. Choose the appropriate time for the annealing step (55°C) for your instrument.

C. PCR Data Acquisition & Quality Assessment

Calculate the threshold cycle (C_t) for each well using the instrument's software. Please consult the instrument user manual or contact the manufacturer's technical support department for further directions.

1. Baseline Cycle Range Selection

To define the Baseline, choose the Automated Baseline option if your instrument has the Adaptive Baseline Function (check with instrument manual or manufacturer, if unsure). If it does not have the adaptive baseline function, you will need to set the baseline manually. Use the Linear View of the amplification plots to determine the earliest visible amplification. Set the instrument to use the readings from cycle number two (2) through two (2) cycles before the earliest visible amplification, but no more than cycle 15. The earliest amplifications usually will be visible between cycles 14 and 18.

2. Threshold Fluorescence Value Selection

Manually define the Threshold Value by using the Log View of the amplification plots and place it above the background signal but within the lower one-third to lower one-half of the linear phase of the amplification plot.

***IMPORTANT:** Ensure that the thresholds are the same across all ChIP PCR Array runs in the same analysis. The absolute position of the threshold is less critical than its consistent position across arrays. If the ChIP DNA sample quality has been adequately controlled, the cycling program has been executed properly, and the thresholds have been defined correctly, then the C_t value of the Positive PCR PPC should be **20 ± 2** across all of your arrays or samples. If not, see the Troubleshooting and FAQ section.

3. Real-Time PCR Data Read out

Export the resulting C_t values for all wells from your instrument to a blank Excel spreadsheet and save for use with the EpiTect ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis Template Excel or Web-based Utilities (See Section D. Data analysis).

NOTE: Save the PCR settings as an instrument file for next time performance (when possible).

4. Recommended Real-Time PCR Quality Assessment:

- a. **Amplification Curve Shape.** The Baseline Cycle Range for all reactions should have a constant (flat) low level of fluorescence in the Linear View of the amplification curve. In the log-scale view, the slopes, and therefore the amplification efficiencies, of all assays should also be parallel to each other to be comparable.
- b. **Dissociation (Melting) Curve.** Confirm that each reaction produces a single specific product as indicated by a single Dissociation Curve peak at a melting temperature (T_m) greater than 75 °C. Also confirm that the peak T_m values are within 1.0 °C of each other for all reactions with the same ChIP PCR primer. For instrument-specific melt curve analysis settings, please refer to the corresponding Instrument Setup Guide for your instrument at: <http://sabiosciences.com/pcrarrayprotocolfiles.php>

General Protocol for a melting curve:

Run a melting curve program immediately after the above cycling program, and generate a first derivative dissociation curve for each well in the entire plate using your instrument's software. No more than one peak should appear in each reaction at temperatures greater than 80°C. If your instrument does not have a default melting curve program, run the following program instead:

95°C, 1 min; 65°C, 2 min (OPTICS OFF); 65°C to 95°C at 2°C / min (OPTICS ON).

NOTES:

1. *If you decide not to obtain the dissociation curve immediately, save the plates wrapped in aluminum foil at -20°C as is, in case you need to perform this operation at a later point in time for troubleshooting purposes. When ready, simply warm the plate to room temperature, place it into your Real-Time instrument, and run the melting program described above.*
2. *Be sure to visually inspect the plate after the run for any signs of evaporation from any of the wells. If evaporation is observed, make a note of which wells so that you may qualify your data analysis appropriately.*

DO NOT open any previously run and stored PCR Array plate. Removing the thin-wall 8-cap strips or the adhesive film from PCR Arrays releases PCR product DNA into the air where it will contaminate and confound the results of future Real-Time PCR experiments. See also the Note on "Preparing a Workspace Free of DNA Contamination".

D. ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis:

ChIP qPCR Array Data Analysis

The Excel-based ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis template provides a guideline and template for automatically performing the calculations and interpretation of the control wells upon including threshold cycle data from a Real-Time PCR instrument. The ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis tool presents the results in a tabular format, a scatter plot, a three-dimensional profile, and a volcano plot (when replicates are included). Download our free Excel-based ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis template available for 96-well and 384-well format at: <http://sabiosciences.com/chipqpcrdataanalysis.php>

Excel-Based ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis

1. Download the Excel-based ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis Templates by Clicking on the above URL.
2. Save and rename the Excel file to your local computer. Paste in your Ct values and the results will be generated automatically.
3. View and analyze the results by simply following the guidelines specified in the "Instruction" worksheet of the Excel template.

NOTE: *The ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis Template automatically changes all Ct values reported as greater than 35 or as N/A (not detected) to 35. At this point, any Ct value equal to 35 is considered a negative call.*

How to Calculate the Percentage Enrichment?

ChIP results are reported for three levels of genomic site occupancy depending on the experimental question(s) asked: **% Input Enrichment**, **Fold Enrichment** and **Fold Difference (Differential Occupancy)**. The first two are specific characteristics of a single sample while the "**Fold Difference (Differential Occupancy)**" is a comparison across multiple samples from different experimental conditions.

When using Real-Time PCR for the analysis of ChIP DNA samples, all results can be calculated using the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ method. This is valid because all Ct values for one genomic site are determined from the same PCR primer assay (unlike mRNA measurements which are normalized with various PCR primer assays). To account for chromatin preparation differences between samples, **input normalized** values for every IP fraction should be used for the calculation of genomic site occupancy.

When the C_t values of the Control reactions (Control, NIS or Mock IP) are > 35 cycles the reproducibility by qPCR is low due to the high level of variation introduced by stochastic effects on the inverse exponential function of PCR in this low template concentration range. Thus the **Fold Enrichment** values from ChIP PCR do not provide a reliable measure for cross sample comparison. Therefore, we recommend using **input normalized** values (**% Input Enrichment**) for all calculations.

Step by step analysis

1. To account for chromatin sample preparation differences normalize each IP DNA C_t value to its Input DNA C_t value for the same PCR Assay in every ChIP sample.

$$\Delta C_t [\text{Normalized IP}] = (C_t [\text{IP}] - (C_t [\text{Input}] - \log_2 (\text{Input dilution factor})))$$

The default Input dilution Factor is 1%, which corresponds with dilution factor of 100 or 6.644 cycles (i.e. \log_2 of 100).

2. Calculate the % Input (Before Normalized Enrichment) for each IP DNA (linear conversion of the Normalized IP ΔC_t).

$$\% \text{ Input} = (2^{-\Delta C_t [\text{Normalized IP}]}) \times 100\%$$

3. Calculate the % Input Enrichment (Specific Enrichment) by subtracting the % Input of the control IP (% Input [con]) from the % Input of Antibody IP (% Input [Ab]).

$$\% \text{ Input Enrichment} = \% \text{ Input [Ab]} - \% \text{ Input [con]}$$

4. Background adjust the Ab IP DNA C_t values by subtracting the input normalized Control IP DNA C_t values from input normalized IP C_t values (first $\Delta\Delta C_t$).

$$\Delta\Delta C_t [\text{IP}] = \Delta C_t [\text{normalized IP}] - \Delta C_t [\text{normalized Con}]$$

5. The Fold Enrichment of a sample is calculated by the linear conversion of the background adjusted first $\Delta\Delta C_t$.

$$\text{Fold Enrichment} = 2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t [\text{IP}]}$$

6. The difference in fold enrichment for each gene across two ChIP PCR Arrays (or groups) can be determined by dividing the fold difference of group 1 by the fold difference of group 2.

$$\text{Fold Difference} = \text{Fold Enrichment G2} / \text{Fold Enrichment G1}$$

Where group 1 (G1) is the control and group 2 (G2) is the experimental group

OPTIONAL: *If the fold-change is greater than 1, then the result may be reported as a fold up-regulation. If the fold-change is less than 1, then the negative inverse of the result may be reported as a fold down-regulation. The fold-change ratios may also be reported as it is.*

Reproducibility of ChIP PCR Array & Positive PCR Control (PPC)

Examine the C_t values of the **PPC** reaction. Any impurities in your ChIP DNA samples which affect the PCR amplification of the positive control will also affect the PCR amplification for the ChIP DNA samples.

1. The average C_t value of PPC should be **20 ± 2** on each PCR Array and should not vary by more than two cycles between PCR Arrays.
2. The differences in average C_t PPC values between samples indicate the presence of different amounts of PCR amplification inhibitors in each ChIP DNA sample.
3. An average PPC C_t value consistently greater than 22 for all of your samples may indicate a problem with the cycling conditions or may simply be indicative of the relative sensitivity of your instrument. See the Troubleshooting and FAQ section.

Reliability of ChIP PCR Array

1. Genomic DNA Input Control (IGX1A):

Within the right **PPC** C_t range, the **IGX1A** C_t value of the **Input fraction** from each experimental sample should be **27.5 ± 1** assuming that the experiment was set up with one million cells.

- a. If the **IGXA** C_t value is **> 30** , it usually indicates that the amount of starting chromatin for the ChIP Assay was too low and/or that the recovery efficiency of ChIP DNA from the reverse cross linking and DNA purification is too low. This may result in a decreased number of positive calls and increased false negative calls. (See page 13 "ChIP Preparation").
- b. If the **IGXA** C_t value is **< 24** , it usually indicates that too much starting material for the ChIP Assay was used, which may cause an increased background and false positive calls (See page 13 "ChIP Preparation")
- c. No action is needed when the **IGXA** C_t value of the Input fraction is within the range of 24 to 30.

2. C_t and "% Input" values of the ChIP Fractions:

Input Fraction:

- a. Individual Input C_t value (C_t [Input]) is generally < 30 . Numbers are listed within the "calculations" worksheet.
- b. The Average $C_{t \text{ Input}}$ (C_t [Input] Ave.) must be < 30 . Numbers are listed within the "QC Report" worksheet.
- c. The difference of C_t [Input] Ave. among each group at the "QC Report" worksheet should be within a reasonable range, generally the difference of C_t [Input] Ave. < 1.585 (equal to 3 fold difference of the Input Fraction).

Control IP Fraction (IgG/NIS/Mock):

- Individual Control C_t value (C_t [Con]) in the "calculations" worksheet should be C_t [Con] < 32, or > C_t [Input] + 2.
- The average C_t [Con] or (C_t [Con] Ave.) in the "QC Report" worksheet should be within a reasonable range; generally C_t [Con] < 32, or C_t [Input] + 2.
- Most importantly, the individual "% Input [Con]" (IgG/NIS/mock background level) in "calculations" worksheet should be in general < 0.1%.

Specific IP Fractions (Antibodies of choice):

The specific IP C_t value (C_t [Ab]) for each genomic site is variable and depends on the experimental samples and antibody quality. Nevertheless the C_t [Ab] value indicates the enrichment of the genomic DNA by ChIP.

- The closer the C_t [Ab] values equal C_t [Con], the less enrichment is achieved.
- The C_t [Ab] average may be used to evaluate the enrichment over the panel of genomic sites on the Array.
- Most importantly if **% Input [Ab] > 0.1%**, and /or **% Input [Ab] - % Input [Con] > 0.01%**, it indicates possible enrichment. If **% Input [Ab] < 0.1%**, and /or **% Input [Ab] - % Input [Con] < 0.01%**, it indicates no enrichment with that specific antibody.

NOTE: The ChIP PCR Array Data Analysis Template automatically replaces all subtraction values (% Input [Ab] - % Input [Con]) reported as less than 0.01% or as N/A (not detected) to **0.01%**. At this point, the value of any "% Input [Ab]" that equals to 0.01% is considered as a negative call, in other words no enrichment.

VI. Troubleshooting and FAQs

Please check the "QC Report" worksheet of the EpiTect ChIP PCR Data Analysis Template for the details.

Appendix: $\Delta\Delta C_t$ Data Analysis Method & Bibliography

Detailed Mathematical Explanation of $\Delta\Delta C_t$ Data Analysis Method

Due to the inverse proportional relationship between the threshold cycle (C_t) and the original amount of template DNA, as well as the doubling of the amount of product with every cycle, the original amount of template DNA (L) in each ChIP fraction is expressed as:

$$L = 2^{-C_t}$$

To control for variation from ChIP fraction to ChIP fraction, the amount of each promoter region of interest in the initial chromatin fraction (Input) provides a convenient normalization factor by establishing the number of genome equivalents present in each initial chromatin fraction. Because the Input DNA fraction only represented one percent of the total material, the Input C_t value is adjusted for this dilution factor by subtracting 6.6 cycles. The ratio of specific IP over Input provides the fraction of the nuclear factor sites pulled down by the IP target factor. Divide the amount of DNA template in the IP fraction by the amount of DNA in the Input fraction to determine the fraction of sites recovered in the IP fraction.

$$\frac{2^{-C_t(\text{IP})}}{2^{-C_t(\text{Input})}} = 2^{[C_t(\text{IP}) - C_t(\text{Input})]} = 2^{-\Delta C_t} = \text{Fraction of Input}$$

To determine fold-change in fraction enrichment caused by the experimental conditions and nuclear factor activation, the normalized amount of the nuclear factor(s) of interest at the promoter region(s) of interest in the experimental sample is divided by the corresponding normalized amount in the control sample.

$$\frac{2^{-\Delta C_t(\text{expt})}}{2^{-\Delta C_t(\text{control})}} 2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t} \quad \text{Where } \Delta\Delta C_t \text{ is equal to } \Delta C_t(\text{expt}) - \Delta C_t(\text{control})$$

Ordering Information

Product	Contents	Cat. no.
EpiTect ChIP qPCR Array	Forward and reverse primers for application-focused panels of genomic sites in 96 and 384-well format	334211

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