

January 2017

RNA Quality Control Using the QIAxcel[®] Advanced System

For automated quantitative and qualitative RNA analysis using the QIAxcel Advanced System

ScreenGel software version 1.3 or higher

The following procedure is for Research Use Only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

Introduction

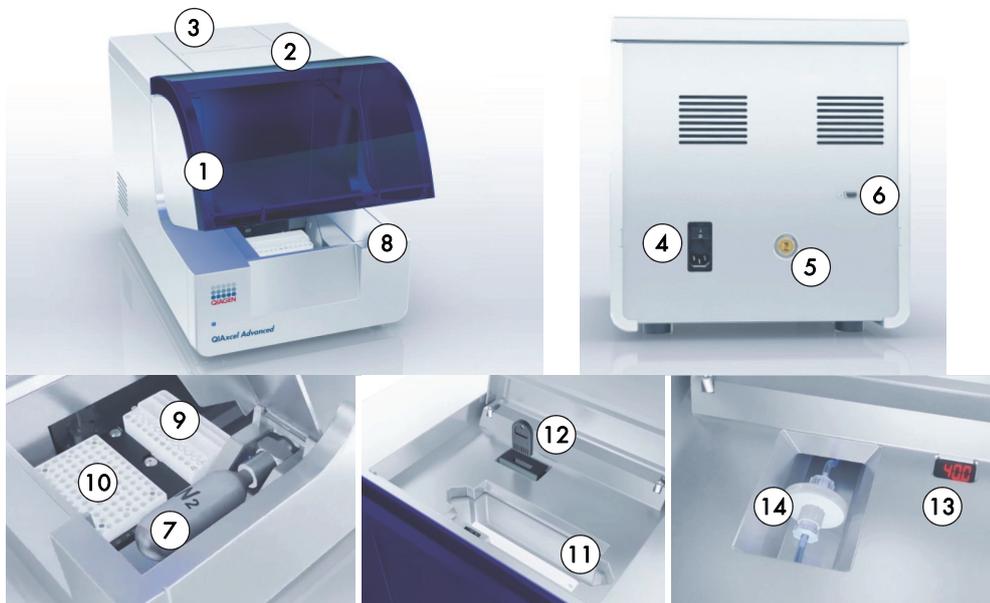
Quality control of RNA samples using the QIAxcel Advanced System is a recommended step in qRT-PCR microarray, next-generation sequencing (NGS) and other complex workflows for gene expression and regulation analysis. The system provides information about the size distribution, concentration, quality and integrity of RNA by reporting 28S/18S ratio and RIS number (RNA Integrity Score) for analyzed samples.

QIAxcel Advanced System

The QIAxcel Advanced instrument is a capillary electrophoresis system used for the separation, detection and analysis of nucleic acids (DNA and RNA). Convenient, ready-to-use cartridges provide an array of 12 capillaries and a reservoir containing proprietary gel polymers mixed with the fluorescent dye. Automated sample loading and analysis limit error-prone manual steps, thereby ensuring reproducibility of measurements. As no hazardous compounds need to be handled manually, the system affords both convenience and safety.

Place any type of 12-tube strip (e.g., QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip (80), cat. no. 929703) or 96-well plate into the QIAxcel instrument. Up to 96 samples per run are analyzed unattended in as little as 14 minutes per 12 samples or approximately 2 hours per 96-well plate. Digital data collection and management of experiments ensure reproducibility, traceability and standardized results.

Features of the QIAxcel Advanced instrument



- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Sample door | 8 | N ₂ door |
| 2 | Cartridge door | 9 | Buffer tray |
| 3 | Service door | 10 | Sample plate holder |
| 4 | Power connection for AC Connection; On/off switch | 11 | Cartridge bay |
| 5 | Tube fitting for external N ₂ connection | 12 | Slot for smart key |
| 6 | Connection with the laptop (RS232 connection) | 13 | Digital pressure display |
| 7 | N ₂ cylinder | 14 | Purge filter |

Note: If using an external N₂ source, the output pressure must not exceed 75 psi. The QIAxcel Advanced instrument is equipped with an internal regulator that regulates the pressure generated by the external N₂ source to approximately 35 psi (30–40 psi), which is the instrument's operating pressure.

Materials needed

- QIAxcel RNA QC Kit v2.0 (1200) (Cat. no. 929104)

Note: The cartridge in the kit is reusable. One kit allows you to analyze up to 1200 samples without loss of performance.

- QX Nitrogen Cylinder (6) (Cat. no. 929705)

QIAxcel RNA QC Kit v2.0 contents

QIAxcel RNA QC Kit v2.0	(1200)
Catalog no.	929104
Number of assays	12 × 100
QIAxcel RNA Quality Control Cartridge (with smart key)	1
QX Separation Buffer	100 ml
QX Wash Buffer	40 ml
QX Mineral Oil	50 ml
QX RNA Dilution Buffer	15 ml
QX Intensity Calibration Marker	600 µl
QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	2
QX Colored 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	2
QX RNA Alignment Marker	1.5 ml
QX RNA Size Marker 200–6000 nt	2 × 20 µl
QX RNA Denaturation Buffer	2 × 2 ml
Handbook	1

The QX RNA Denaturation Buffer, QX RNA Size Marker 200–6000 nt and QX RNA Alignment Marker are shipped separately.

Store the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge, the QX RNA Denaturation Buffer, the QX Intensity Calibration Marker and the QX RNA Alignment Marker at 2–8°C.

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

Store the QX RNA Size Marker 200–6000 nt at –20 to –80°C.

All other components can be stored dry at room temperature (15–25°C).

For long-term storage, the QX Intensity Calibration Marker as well as stock solutions of the QX RNA Size Marker and QX RNA Alignment Marker should be stored at –20 to –80°C.

Prior to use, place the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge into the QIAxcel Advanced instrument in the “Park Position” with buffer in the buffer tray, and allow it to stand for at least 30 minutes. If the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge will be used again the next day, leave it in the instrument in the “Park Position.” To store the cartridge for 2 or more days, close the purge port with the purge port seal, return the cartridge to its blister package making sure to insert the capillary tips into the soft gel, and store it at 4–8°C in an upright position (see the orientation label on the blister package). Alternatively, store the cartridge in a Cartridge Stand at 4–8°C with the well of Cartridge Stand filled with QX Wash Buffer overlaid with mineral oil.

Software requirements

ScreenGel software version 1.3 or higher is required. After installing the software, an administrator should add new users.

1. Log in with the user name “Administrator”. You do not need a password (simply click **OK**). Under this log in, you only have access to the **Configuration** environment of the software to set up new users; you cannot perform runs.
2. Select **User Manager** in the **Configuration** environment (1).
3. Create new users. For each, define **User ID** (2), **Role** (3) and **Password** (4).

Note: For the procedure described in this guide, we recommend defining **Role** as **Advanced User**.

Note: Refer to the *QIAxcel Advanced User Manual* for further information.

The screenshot shows the QIAxcel Advanced software interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. Below that is a navigation bar with icons for 'Process', 'Analysis', 'Service', and 'Configuration' (1). Underneath the navigation bar are tabs for 'Settings', 'Profile Manager', and 'User Manager'. Below the tabs is a table with columns: 'User ID', 'Role', 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'DNA', 'RNA', 'Protein', and 'Private Settings'. Below the table is a form titled 'Define user account'. The form has the following fields and options:

- User ID** (2): A text input field.
- Initial password** (4): A text input field with asterisks.
- First name**: A text input field.
- Role** (3): A dropdown menu with 'Advanced User' selected.
- Confirm password**: A text input field with asterisks.
- Last name**: A text input field.
- Mode**: Three checkboxes: 'DNA' (checked), 'RNA' (checked), and 'Protein' (unchecked).
- Options**: Five checkboxes: 'Activated' (checked), 'Allow private settings' (unchecked), 'May skip confirmation of run checks' (unchecked), 'May revise sample information after run' (checked), and 'May accept incomplete experiments' (checked).

4. To start an experiment, log out of the system and log in again as one of the newly created users.

Sample and RNA size marker preparation

The minimum sample volume required for analysis is 10 μl . Less than 0.1 μl of the sample are injected into the QIAxcel gel cartridge for analysis.

Note: To prevent capillaries from drying out, fill all 12 tubes or plate positions in a row with either sample or 15 μl Dilution buffer.

Sample preparation procedure

Table 1. Suggested RNA concentrations

RNA sample type	Suggested concentration (ng/ μl)	Method
Total RNA	300–1000	CM-RNA
	50–300	CL-RNA
Fragmented cRNA or cDNA	250–500	CM-F-RNA

1. For each sample, pipet 1 μl sample into a corresponding position of a 0.2 ml 12-tube strip or a 96-well plate.
2. Pipet 1 μl QX RNA Size Marker 200–6000 nt into another position of the 12-tube strip or 96-well plate.
3. Add an equal volume of QX RNA Denaturation Buffer to each used tube or well. Cover the tubes with caps or the wells with foil.
4. Heat the mixture for 2 min at 70°C on a heating block or in a thermal cycler and then place the tubes or plate on ice for 1 minute.
5. Centrifuge the mixtures briefly to collect any condensation.
6. Bring the total volume of each tube or well to 10 μl using QX RNA Dilution Buffer, and mix the solution by gently pipetting up and down a few times.
7. Analyze the samples.

Note: If analyzing less than 12 samples, fill the empty tubes or wells with QX RNA Dilution Buffer to protect the capillaries from damage.

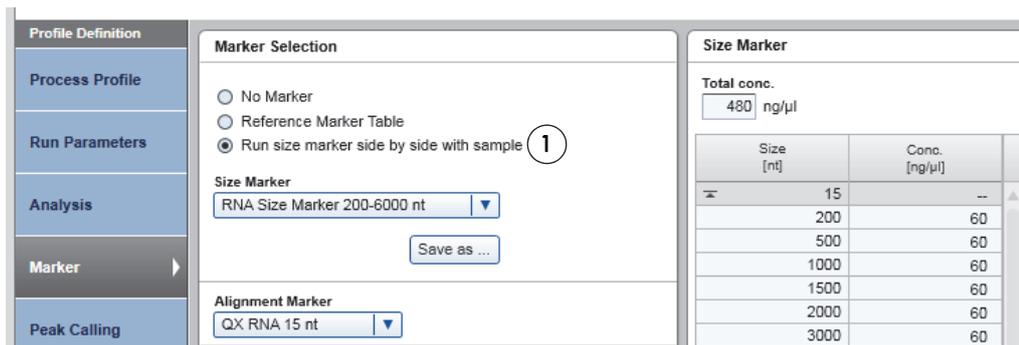
For a total RNA sample concentration greater than 1 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, cRNA concentration greater than 500 ng/ μl , or a fragmented RNA concentration greater than 500 ng/ μl , dilute the samples in QX RNA Dilution Buffer to the concentration suggested in Table 1 before performing denaturation.

For low-concentration RNA samples, use 2 or 3 μl sample and the same volume of QX RNA Denaturation Buffer. Using larger volumes can lead to abnormal migration and signal intensities. We do not recommend using significantly longer injection times (longer than 20

seconds) because this may lead to peak broadening and reduce the number of runs that can be performed.

RNA size marker

To run the RNA size marker side by side with the samples, check the corresponding option (1) in the **Marker Selection** dialog.



Size [nt]	Conc. [ng/µl]
15	--
200	60
500	60
1000	60
1500	60
2000	60
3000	60

For subsequent runs with the same cartridge, you can use a reference marker table instead of running a size marker in parallel with samples. For details, see “Preparing a reference marker table”, page 19.

Procedures

Prepare and insert the buffer tray into the buffer tray holder

1. Before using the buffer tray (see “Features of the QIAxcel Advanced instrument”, page 2), wash it with hot water and rinse it thoroughly with deionized water.
2. Fill the wash purge (WP) and wash idle (WI) positions of the buffer tray with 8 ml QX Wash Buffer each.
3. Fill the BUFFER position of the buffer tray with 18 ml QX Separation Buffer.
4. Carefully add 2 ml mineral oil to positions WP and WI each and 4 ml mineral oil to position BUFFER to prevent evaporation.
5. Click  in **Status Information** panel of the ScreenGel software to move the buffer tray holder to the front of the instrument. Allow the buffer tray holder to reach its stop position.
6. Open the sample door and carefully place the filled buffer tray into the buffer tray holder tray (see “Features of the QIAxcel Advanced instrument”, page 2). Ensure that the slots for the 12-tube strips face the front of the instrument.

7. Buffers should be exchanged at least once for every new cartridge.

Note: Be careful not to spill any solutions in the instrument or cause any cross-contamination between buffers loaded on the buffer tray. You may also fill the buffer tray after placing it in the instrument, using a pipet.

Prepare and load the alignment marker

1. Load 15 μ l QX RNA Alignment Marker into each tube of a 12-tube strip (e.g., QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip).
2. Add 1 drop of mineral oil to each tube.
3. Place the strip into the MARKER1 position of the buffer tray.

Alignment markers are injected from the MARKER1 position of the buffer tray and co-migrate with the RNA samples for analysis.

Note: QX RNA Alignment Markers should be replaced every 35 runs. When not in use, the 12-tube strip containing QX RNA Alignment Marker should be stored at 4–8°C.

Load the cartridge into the instrument

1. Remove the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge from its packaging and carefully wipe off any soft gel debris from the capillary tips using a soft tissue.
2. Remove the purge cap seal from the back of the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge (**A**, below) and place the cartridge in the instrument. The cartridge description label should face the front of the instrument (**B**, below).
3. Insert the smart key into the smart key socket. It may be inserted in either direction (**C**, below).



4. Close the cartridge door.

Note: Prior to use, place the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge in the “Park Position” with buffer in the buffer tray and allow it to stand for at least 30 min.

Perform an intensity calibration for a new cartridge

Every QIAxcel RNA Cartridge requires an intensity calibration prior to the first run. The calibration is done only once for each cartridge and serves to normalize the intensity of each capillary, applying a correction factor in every subsequent run. This corrects for natural intensity reading variation between capillaries in a cartridge.

1. Load 15 µl QX Intensity Calibration Marker into each tube of a 12-tube strip (e.g., QX Color 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip). Add a drop of mineral oil and insert the strip into the MARKER2 position of the buffer tray.
2. Click **Start calibration** under **Calibration** in the **Service** environment of the ScreenGel software.
Note: Refer to the *QIAxcel Advanced User Manual* for more details on the calibration.
3. Upon completion, calibration results are displayed next to the gel image or in the electropherogram view. The **Results Table** shows the area, calibration factor and result (“Pass” or “Fail”) for each channel.
4. Accept the results of the calibration (or repeat the calibration if any of the capillaries failed).

Perform the run

1. Switch on the QIAxcel instrument (See “Features of the QIAxcel Advanced instrument”, page 2).
2. Switch on the computer linked to the instrument and open the ScreenGel software.
3. Log in to the software in the RNA mode.
To switch to RNA mode, log out of the software and log in again in the RNA mode.
4. Load the buffer tray with the QX RNA Alignment Marker in the MARKER1 position into the buffer tray holder.
5. Place the QIAxcel RNA Cartridge into the instrument.
6. Load the 12-tube strip or a 96-well plate with the samples to be analyzed 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 or sample door during operation will cause the system to stop any action it is currently performing.

- Select a process profile from the drop-down list (1).

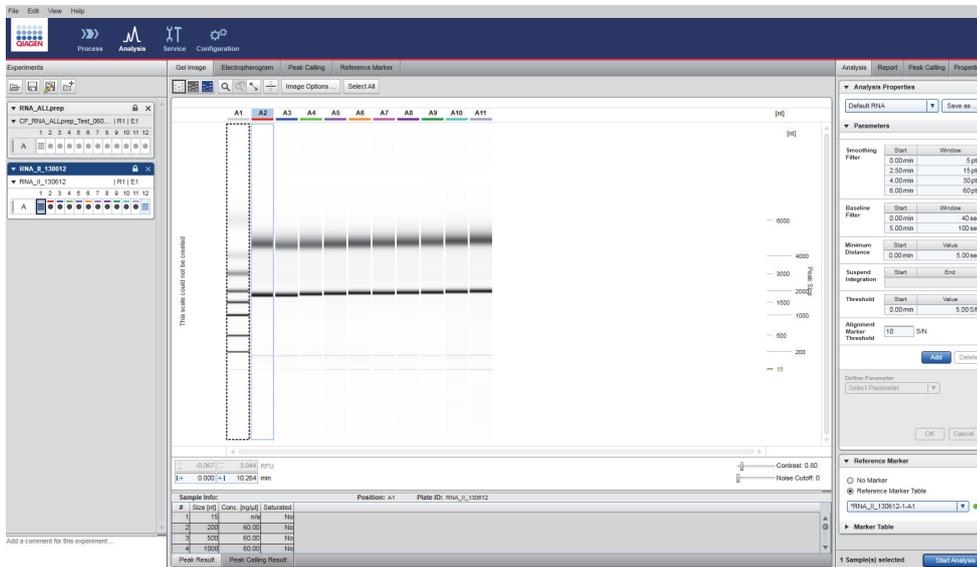
Note: You can use either default process files or user-created files. To create a new process profile, see “Creating a new process profile”, page 15.

The screenshot shows the software interface with a sidebar on the left containing menu items: Profile Definition, Process Profile, Run Parameters, Analysis, Marker, Peak Calling, Report/Export, and Start a Process. The main area is titled 'Mode' and contains a 'Cartridge Type' dropdown set to 'RNA Quality Control'. Below this is a 'Process Profile' dropdown set to 'RNA QC', which is circled with a '1'. Underneath is a 'Profile' section with 'Cartridge Type' set to 'RNA Quality Control'. At the bottom, 'Included Steps' are listed with checkboxes for 'Run', 'Analysis', 'Peak Calling', and 'Report', all of which are checked.

- Open the **Sample Selection** dialog and name the experiment (1). Mark the rows containing samples by clicking the **Sample Row Selection** panel (2). If running the size marker side by side with the samples, define the position of the size marker by right-clicking the corresponding position in the **Sample Row Selection** panel (3) and selecting **Toggle analysis marker** from the resulting menu.

The screenshot shows the 'Sample Selection' dialog. The 'Plate ID' field is set to 'NAME THE EXPERIMENT' and is circled with a '1'. There is a checkbox for 'Provide Sample Information' which is checked. The 'Experiment Directory' field contains a file path. Under 'Reference Marker', the 'Run size marker side by side with sample' option is selected. The 'Size Marker' dropdown is set to 'RNA Size Marker 200-6000 nt' and the 'Alignment Marker' dropdown is set to 'QX RNA 15 nt'. There is a checkbox for 'Show Lot Information' which is unchecked. On the right, the 'Sample Row Selection' panel shows a grid of rows (A-H) and columns (1-12). Rows A, B, and C are highlighted in blue. A menu icon is circled with a '3' next to row C, column 12. Below the grid, it says 'Total Runs: 3' and 'Estimated Time: About 44 minutes'.

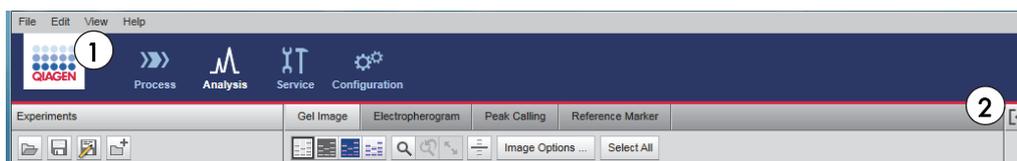
Analysis



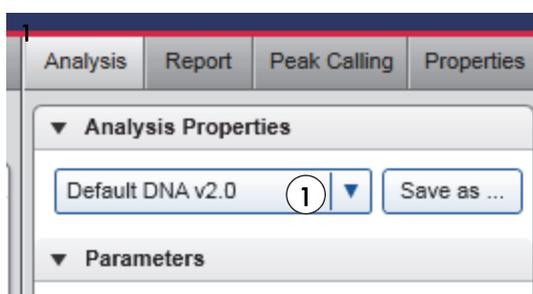
Analysis environment displaying an active Gel view, the Experiment Explorer on the left and the Analysis panel on the right.

The parameters of an analysis profile can be modified by operators with an Advanced User role.

To modify an analysis profile, enter the Analysis environment and select the **Analysis** tab on the right. If the tab is not visible, display it by selecting **Show Analysis Parameters** from the **View** menu (1) or by clicking the icon at the far right of the view selection bar (2).



Select the analysis profile to be modified from the drop-down list (1) in the **Analysis Properties** panel.



To change any analysis parameter, simply:

1. Select the parameter of interest (e.g., Threshold **(1)**)
2. Change the value **(2)**
3. Click **OK (3)**

The screenshot shows the 'Analysis Properties' dialog box. The 'Parameters' section is expanded, and the 'Threshold' parameter is selected, indicated by a circled '1'. The 'Threshold' table shows a start time of 0.00 min and a value of 5.00 S/N. Below this, the 'Define Parameter' section shows the 'Threshold' parameter selected, with a start time of 0 min, a value of 30, and a type of S/N, indicated by a circled '2'. At the bottom, the 'OK' button is highlighted, indicated by a circled '3'.

Smoothing Filter	Start	Window
	0.00 min	5 pts
	2.50 min	15 pts
	4.00 min	30 pts
	6.00 min	60 pts

Baseline Filter	Start	Window
	0.00 min	40 sec
	5.00 min	100 sec

Minimum Distance	Start	Value
	0.00 min	5.00 sec

Suspend Integration	Start	End

Threshold	Start	Value
(1)	0.00 min	5.00 S/N

Alignment Marker Threshold: 0 S/N

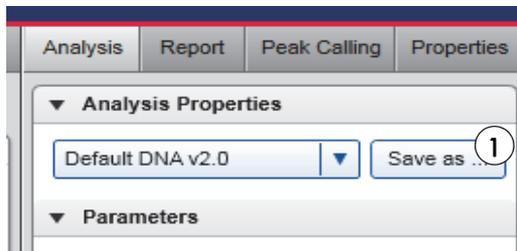
Buttons: Add, Delete

Define Parameter: Threshold

Start	Value	Type
0 min	(2) 30	S/N (3)

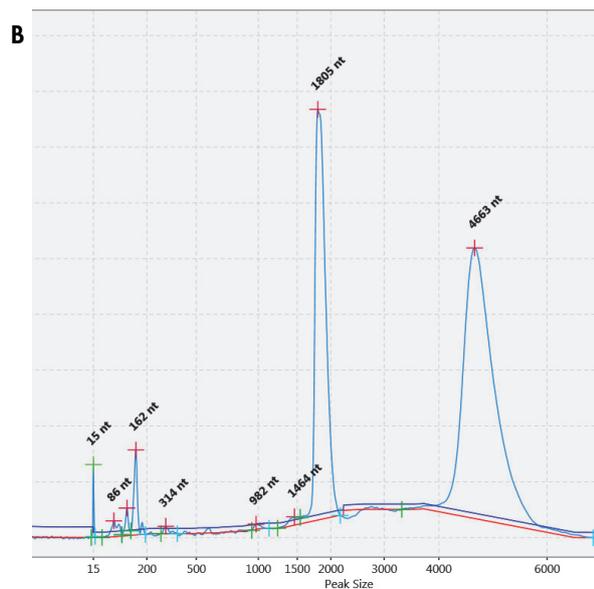
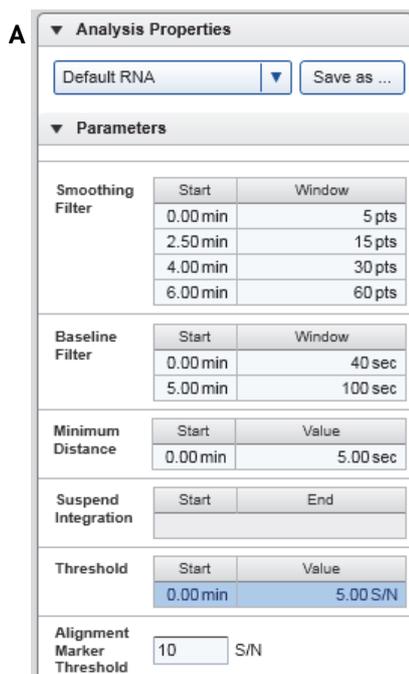
Buttons: OK, Cancel

To save the modified profile, click **Save as (1)** to the right of the Process Profile drop-down list.



The following example shows how increasing the threshold excludes unspecific fragments from the analysis.

With a low threshold value **(A)**, unspecific peaks are recorded in the 200–1500 peak size range **(B)** that impact the analysis.



By increasing the threshold value (A), those unspecific peaks are excluded from the analysis (B).

A

▼ Analysis Properties

*Default RNA Save as ...

▼ Parameters

Smoothing Filter	Start	Window
	0.00 min	5 pts
	2.50 min	15 pts
	4.00 min	30 pts
	6.00 min	60 pts

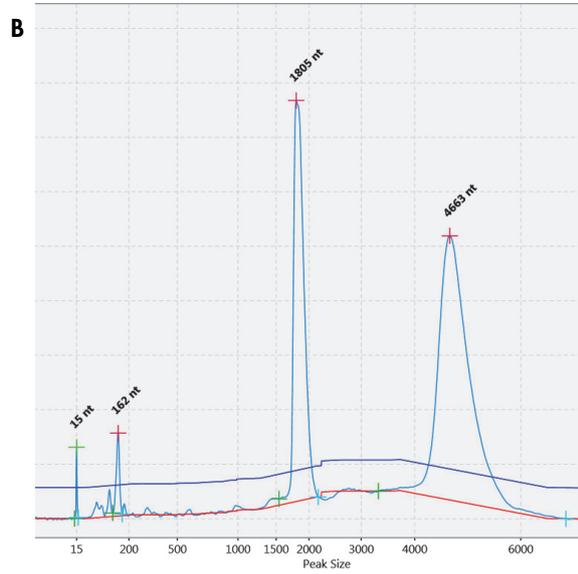
Baseline Filter	Start	Window
	0.00 min	40 sec
	5.00 min	100 sec

Minimum Distance	Start	Value
	0.00 min	5.00 sec

Suspend Integration	Start	End

Threshold	Start	Value
	0.00 min	30.00 S/N

Alignment Marker Threshold S/N



Creating a new process profile

1. Select ***NewProcessprofile** from the corresponding drop-down list (1) of the **Process Profile** dialog.

The screenshot shows the 'Process Profile' dialog box. On the left is a vertical navigation pane with options: Profile Definition, Process Profile (selected), Run Parameters, Analysis, Marker, Peak Calling, Report/Export, and Start a Process. The main area is divided into sections: Mode, Cartridge Type (set to RNA Quality Control), Process Profile (with a dropdown menu showing '*NewProcessProfile' and a circled '1'), Profile (with Cartridge Type set to RNA Quality Control), Included Steps (with checkboxes for Run, Analysis, Peak Calling, and Report all checked), and Experiment Directory.

2. Define the electrophoresis method under **Run Parameters** (1).

The screenshot shows the 'Run Parameters' dialog box. The left navigation pane has 'Run Parameters' selected. The main area is split into 'Method Details' and 'Sample Row Selection'. The 'Method Details' section contains a table:

Method	Range	M	Inj. Time	RpR	Runs	Preview
CM-RNA	A - H		20	1	8	

Below the table are 'Insert', 'Add', and 'Delete' buttons. There are also checkboxes for 'Allow row deselection' and 'Allow marker definition'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Method' (set to CM-RNA and circled with a '1'), 'Range' (A - H), 'Injection Time' (20 sec), and 'Runs per Row' (1). A note states: '* This method costs 1 regular run(s) decrement in the cartridge key.' There are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

The 'Sample Row Selection' section shows a grid of 8 rows (A-H) and 12 columns (1-12). Each cell contains a blue dot. An information icon and text below the grid state: 'Left-click to add or remove sample rows' and 'Right-click to define marker position'.

- To run the RNA size marker side by side with the samples, check the corresponding option (1) in the **Marker** dialog. The size and concentration estimation is based on the RNA size marker (2). Also define the Alignment Marker (3).

Profile Definition

- Process Profile
- Run Parameters
- Analysis
- Marker**
- Peak Calling

Marker Selection

No Marker
 Reference Marker Table
 Run size marker side by side with sample (1)

Size Marker

RNA Size Marker 200-6000 nt (2) ▼

Save as ...

Alignment Marker

QX RNA 15 nt (3) ▼

For subsequent runs with the same cartridge, you can use a reference marker table instead of running a size marker in parallel with samples. For details, see “Preparing a reference marker table”, page 19.

- In the **Peak Calling** dialog, choose the Peak Calling Instruction (1) that matches your samples (e.g., Default RNA rat_mouse_human) and check the boxes for total concentration, RIS number (RNA integrity score) and 28S/18S ratio (2). If necessary, increase the tolerance (3). Tolerance compensates for relative migration time differences from sample to sample.

Profile Definition

- Process Profile
- Run Parameters
- Analysis
- Marker
- Peak Calling**
- Report/Export

Peak Calling Instruction

*Default RNA rat_mouse_hun (1) Save as ...

Peaks of Interest

Include size marker samples
 Find centered peak in interval
 Find highest peak in interval

Table Definition

Name	Position	Tol. [%]
18 S	1869 nt	7.00
28 S	4700 nt	7.00

Add Delete

Calculated Columns

Total Concentration ("Total Conc.")
 RNA Integrity Score ("RIS")
 Ref. Peak 18 S (2)

Ratio Normalized Area ("Ratio")
 Ratio: 28 S / 18 S

Relative Abundance

5. Choose the **Report** options that meet your laboratory requirements.

Profile Definition

Process Profile

Run Parameters

Analysis

Marker

Peak Calling

Report/Export

Start a Process

Sample Selection

Sample Information

Run Check

Report/Export Profile

*Default RNA Save as ...

Report Options

Display Report Print Report

Overview

Experiment Plate Comment

Reported by

Experiment Path

Sample List

Lot Information

Peak Calling Result Table

Result Table Columns	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sample Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Found
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Size
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Concentration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Molarity

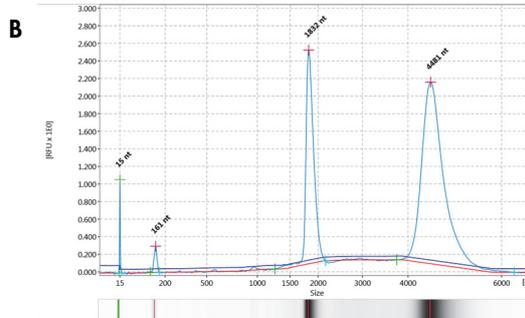
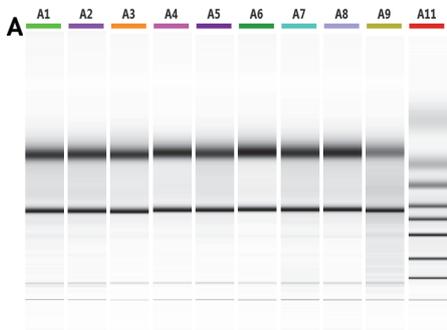
Calculated Columns (if present)

Peak Calling Instruction Table

Overall Result Table

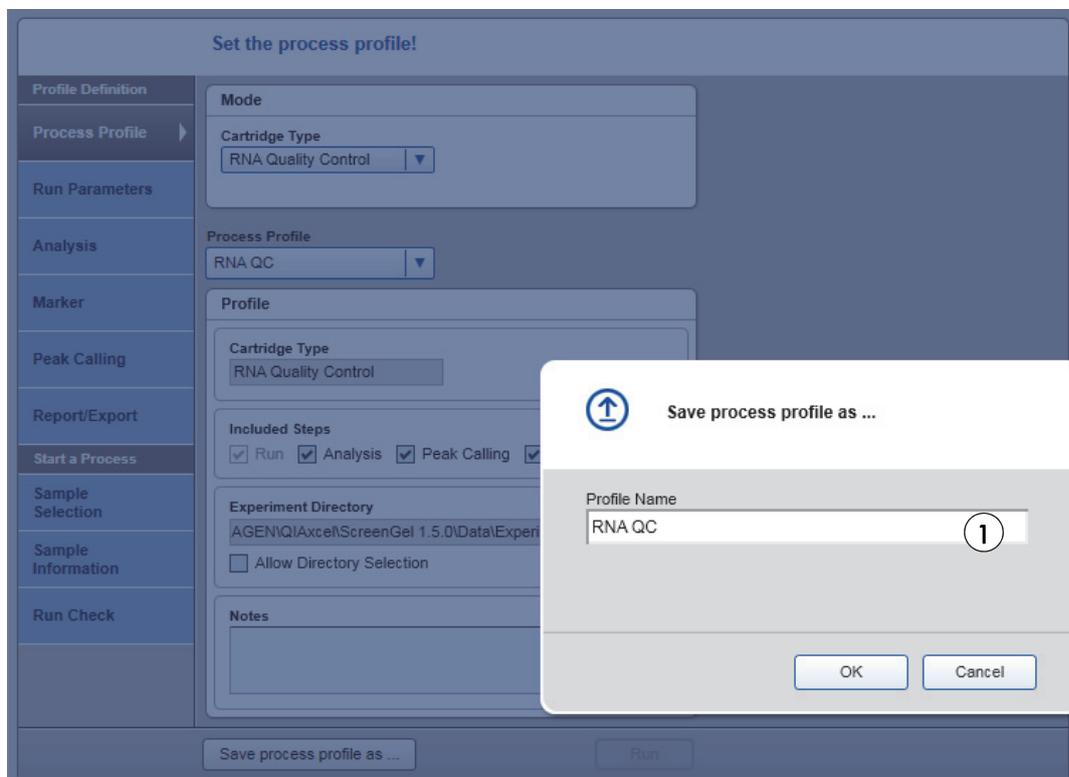
Gel Image Overview

After running the analysis, the ScreenGel software presents the results in a Report as gel images (A), electropherograms (B) and tabulated data (C). You can customize the Report to meet your specific needs.



Pos	Sample Info	RIS	Ratio	Total Concentration [ng/μl]	18 S		28 S	
					Size [nt]	Conc. [ng/μl]	Size [nt]	Conc. [ng/μl]
A1	A	9.7	1.88	497.54	1802	101.28	4388	227.92
A2	B	9.6	1.76	628.09	1800	136.00	4415	288.97
A3	C	10.0	1.85	809.59	1779	191.20	4404	427.29
A4	D	10.0	1.79	599.05	1832	148.70	4481	322.74
A5	E	9.7	1.82	476.33	1839	105.35	4455	230.14
A6	F	9.9	2.18	437.43	1858	103.17	4511	271.32
A7	G	9.8	2.02	393.75	1856	78.95	4470	191.44
A8	H	9.8	2.14	379.57	1859	75.56	4490	195.06
A9	I	9.1	1.16	564.70	1823	124.67	4496	176.35

6. Save the process file (e.g., **RNA QC**).



Preparing a reference marker table

With a reference marker table you can conveniently save the analysis of an RNA size marker performed with an initial set of samples (e.g., 11 samples and the size marker) to be used in the RNA analysis of subsequent sample runs without having to run the size marker again.

Use a reference marker table only with samples that are analyzed with the same cartridge, process profile and injection time as the analyzed size marker.

To prepare a reference marker table, run the RNA size marker with the same protocol and injection time as used for analysis of the samples.

1. Choose the process profile from the drop-down menu (1).

The screenshot shows a software interface with a sidebar on the left containing menu items: Profile Definition, Process Profile, Run Parameters, Analysis, Marker, Peak Calling, Report/Export, and Start a Process. The main panel is titled 'Profile Definition' and contains several sections. The 'Process Profile' section has a drop-down menu labeled 'Process Profile' with 'RNA QC' selected and a circled '1' next to it. Below this is a 'Profile' section with a 'Cartridge Type' drop-down menu set to 'RNA Quality Control'. At the bottom, there is an 'Included Steps' section with four checked checkboxes: Run, Analysis, Peak Calling, and Report.

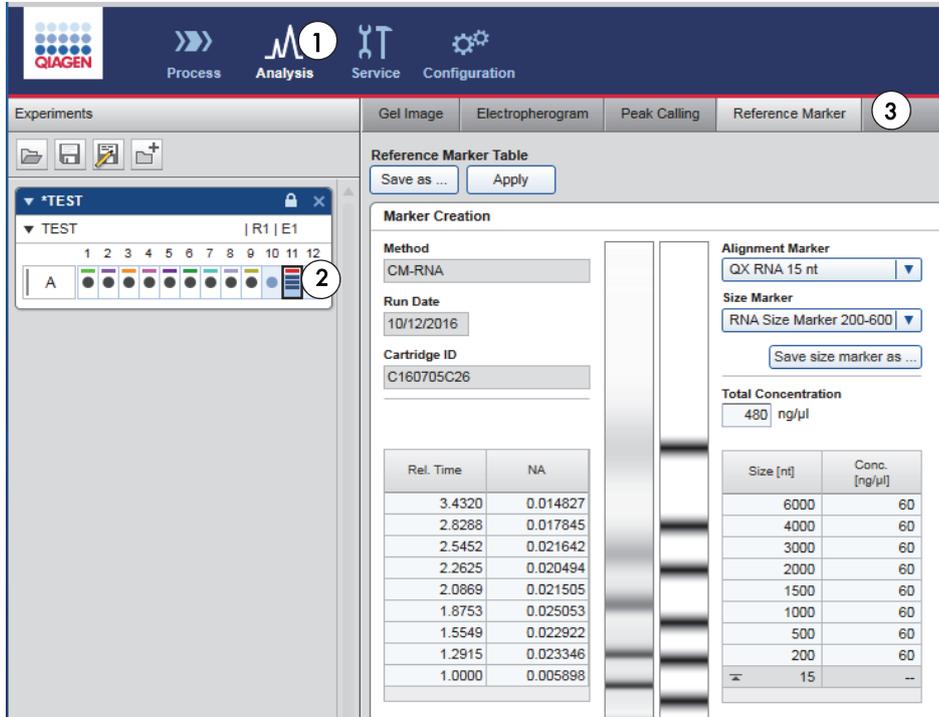
2. Open the **Marker** dialog and select **Run size marker side by side with the sample**. Choose the RNA size (1) and alignment marker (2) from their respective drop-down menu.

IMPORTANT: RNA size marker should be prepared in the same way as the RNA samples, always using 1 µl size marker.

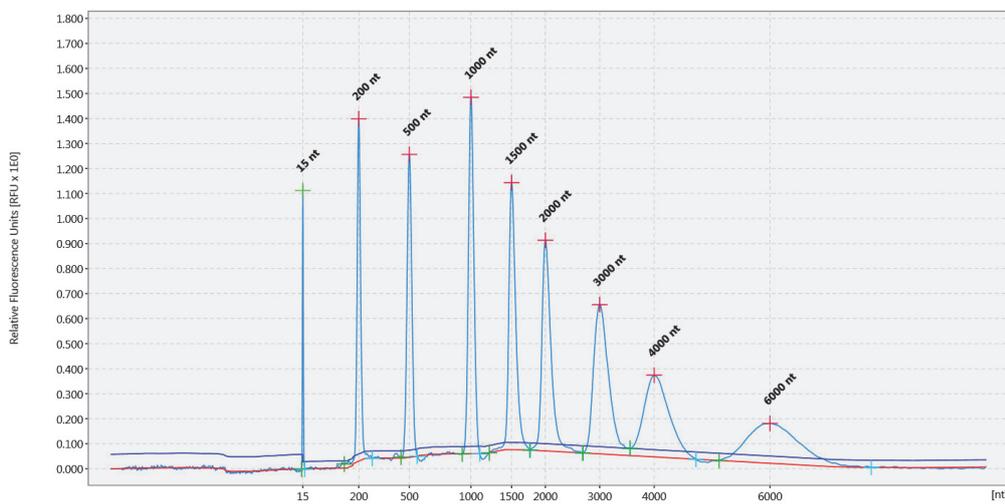
The screenshot shows the 'Marker Selection' dialog box. It has three radio button options: 'No Marker', 'Reference Marker Table', and 'Run size marker side by side with sample', with the third option selected. Below these are two drop-down menus. The first is labeled 'Size Marker' and has 'RNA Size Marker 200-6000 nt' selected, with a circled '1' next to it. Below this is a 'Save as ...' button. The second drop-down menu is labeled 'Alignment Marker' and has 'QX RNA 15 nt' selected, with a circled '2' next to it.

3. Perform the run.

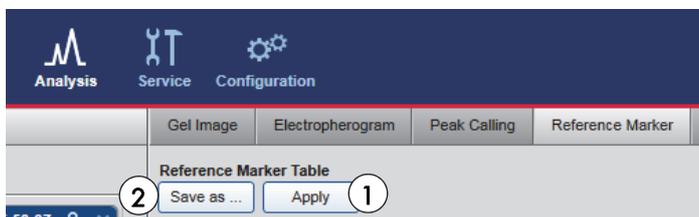
- Upon completing the run, open the **Analysis (1)** environment of the ScreenGel software, select the size marker lane (2) and click **Reference Marker (3)**.



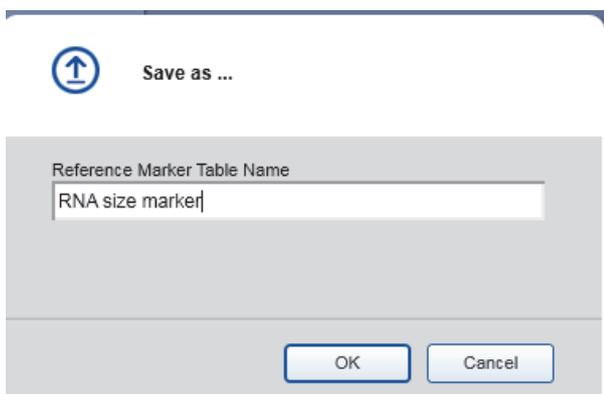
- Open the **Electropherogram** of the size marker lane to ensure that all peaks were identified correctly as shown in the electropherogram below.



6. Return to the **Reference Marker** tab and click **Apply (1)**.



7. Click **Save as (2)** to save the reference marker table.

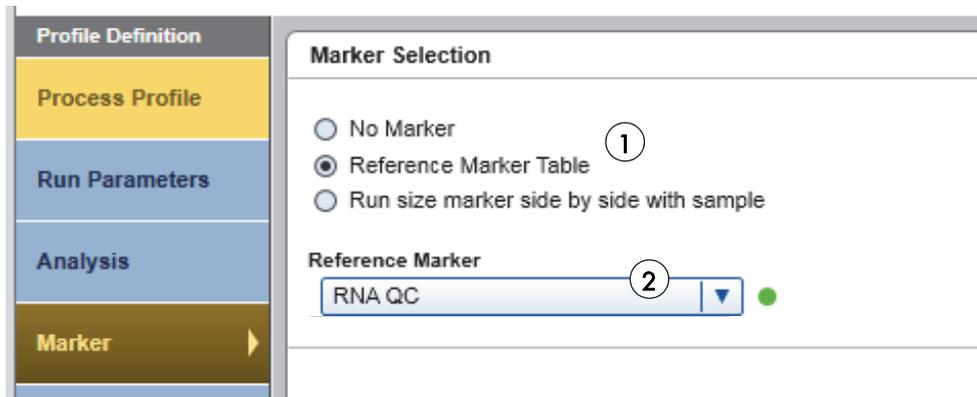


This saved reference marker table can be used as long as cartridge, method and injection time used for samples is the same as those used to generate the reference marker table.

Note: We recommend refreshing the reference marker table every 2 months. Simply delete the reference marker table file, run and analyze the size marker as new and save the results as a reference marker table with the same name as the previous file.

To find the reference marker table file, click File in the Main Menu of the ScreenGel software and select Open Data Directory and then Application data. The file will be in the folder Reference Marker Table.

8. To use the reference marker table in the saved process profile, select the option **Reference Marker Table** (1) in the **Marker** dialog, and then select the reference marker table from the drop-down menu (2).



Save the process profile with a new name indicating that it uses the reference marker table.

As a result, you will have 2 related process profiles:

- The first saved profile (e.g., RNA QC), which should be used when running the size marker side by side with samples
- A second saved profile (e.g., RNA QC with RMT) to be used when running samples without a size marker and using the data saved in the reference marker table

Ordering information

Product	Contents	Cat. No.
QIAxcel Advanced System	Capillary electrophoresis device: includes computer, QIAxcel ScreenGel Software, installation, training, and 1-year warranty on parts and labor.	9002123
QIAxcel RNA QC Kit v2.0 (1200)	For 100 runs of 12 samples: QIAxcel RNA Quality Control Gel 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
QX Nitrogen Cylinder (6)	6 QIAxcel Nitrogen Cylinders	929705
Accessories		
QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strip (80)	80 x QX 0.2 ml 12-Tube Strips	929703
QX 0.2 ml Color 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

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