

PRODUCT INFORMATION

This reagent consists of 30 ml Solution A (enhancer), 30 ml Solution B (activator), 30 ml Solution C (initiator) and 30 mL Solution D (buffer), sufficient for up to twelve of mini 7 x 8.4 cm western blots.. The reagent is formed by combining equal volumes of the enhancer and activator, and then adding the initiator and the buffer. The mixture should be prepared immediately before use. For optimum results, we recommend waiting 5-10 minutes after mixing A and B before adding C and D, although the reagent will produce successful enhancement if C and D are added immediately or up to two hours later. Nanogold® or colloidal gold nucleates deposition of gold to give dark purple stains in blots.

Please Note: This formulation is optimized for fast development of immune dot blots or western blots where Nanogold® or colloidal gold conjugates are used. 10 picogram of antigen is seen within 5 min on immuno dot blots. The GoldEnhance™ Blots provides ultra detection sensitivity, and allows to detect 5 picogram of antigen on immuno dot blots.

Store the component solutions in the refrigerator at 2-8°C. All components should be equilibrated to room temperature prior to the enhancement procedure. To avoid cross contamination

Warning: For research use only. Not recommended or intended for diagnosis of disease in humans or animals. Do not use internally or externally in humans or animals.

GOLD ENHANCEMENT FOR LIGHT MICROSCOPY

GoldEnhance™ is prepared immediately before use by mixing equal amounts of Solution A (enhancer) and Solution B (activator), followed by the Solution C (initiator), and Solution D (buffer). For optimum results, we recommend waiting 5-10 minutes after mixing A and B before adding C and D, although the reagent will produce successful enhancement if C and D are added immediately to up to two hours later. The reagents are supplied in dropping bottles for easier dispensing of small amounts.

If aldehyde-containing reagents have been used for fixation, it is recommended that these be quenched before labeling. This may be achieved by incubating the specimens for 5 minutes in 50 mM glycine solution in PBS (pH 7.4); ammonium chloride (50 mM) or sodium borohydride (0.5 - 1 mg/ml) in PBS may be used instead of glycine.

The following procedure was developed for gold enhancement of *In Situ* hybridization specimens by Hacker et al. as a modification of the Nanogold®-Silver Staining procedure.² It has been found to be effective for enhancement of tissue sections for light microscope observation. We have found times of 10-20 minutes give optimal results; however, this reagent is intended to function in a wide range of conditions, and different washes and development times may give better results in your application. You should follow your normal procedure up to the application of the gold conjugate; the protocol below describes the steps after this:

1. Incubate the sections with Nanogold® or colloidal gold conjugate according to current protocols or using the buffers, concentrations and protocols recommended for the conjugate.
2. Wash in PBS pH 7.6, 2 times 5 min each.
3. Wash in PBS-gelatin pH 7.6 for 5 min.
4. Repeatedly wash in distilled water for at least 10 min altogether, the last 2 rinses in ultrapure water (EM-grade).
5. Prepare GoldEnhance™ using equal amounts of the four components (Solutions A,B,C, and D); prepare about 100 μ L per slide.
 - a. Dispense Solution A (enhancer: green cap) into a clean tube or dish, add Solution B (activator: yellow cap), and mix thoroughly.
 - b. Wait 5 minutes.
 - c. Add Solution C (initiator: purple cap) and Solution D (buffer) and mix thoroughly.
 - d. Apply 100 μ L, or amount sufficient to cover the specimen.
 - e. Develop specimen for 10 - 20 minutes. More or less time can be used to control particle size and intensity of signal.
6. When optimum staining is reached, immediately stop by rinsing carefully with deionized water.

PBS-Gelatin Buffer:

20 mM phosphate
150 mM NaCl
pH 7.6

optional, may reduce background:

0.1% gelatin (high purity)
0.5 M NaCl
0.05% Tween 20

PBS Buffer:

20 mM phosphate
150 mM NaCl
pH 7.6

Notes:

- Development starts with addition of Solution C (initiator), so apply to sample as soon as possible after adding C & D to minimize autonucleation background.
- To obtain an especially dark signal, or for further development, develop longer or gold enhancement may be revitalized with a freshly mixed portion of GoldEnhance™ (rinse with distilled water between applications of GoldEnhance™).
- The development is not highly light sensitive, so may be conducted under normal room lighting, or viewing by light microscopy.
- Some users reported good development omitting the use of Solution D (buffer), but deposition times are then slower.

GOLD ENHANCEMENT FOR IMMUNOBLOTS AND MEMBRANE BLOTS

The basic procedure for gold immunoblotting has been described by Moeremans et al;³ the following procedure is adapted from this protocol. GoldEnhance™ is prepared immediately before use by mixing equal amounts of the Solution A (enhancer) and Solution B (activator), Solution C (initiator) and Solution D (buffer). Mix Solution A (enhancer) and Solution B (activator) thoroughly, wait 5 min, then add Solution C (initiator) and Solution D (buffer) and mix thoroughly again. The reagents are supplied in dropping bottles for easier dispensing of the same amounts. We have found a development time of 20-30 minutes to be effective; however, this reagent is intended to function in a wide range of conditions, and your experiments may require different times or reagents. Development times and the appearance of background signal may vary with the type of gold probe used, and with the type of membrane used for blotting.

The target should be blotted onto the membrane, then detected with the primary probe according to the usual procedure. You should follow your usual or recommended protocol up to the application of the Nanogold® or immunogold reagent, then proceed with the following steps; also see Notes, above. Formulations of ancillary buffers 1 and 2 are given after the procedure.

1. Incubate with a 1/100 to 1/500 dilution of the NANOGOLD® reagent or colloidal gold conjugate in according to current or recommended protocols.
2. Rinse with buffer 1 (3 X 5 mins), then buffer 2 (2 X 5 mins).
3. OPTIONAL (may improve sensitivity): Postfix with glutaraldehyde, 1 % in buffer 2 (10 mins).
4. Rinse with deionized water (2 X 5 mins).
5. Prepare GoldEnhance™ using equal amounts of the four components (Solutions A,B,C, and D).
 - a. Dispense Solution A (enhancer: green cap) into a clean tube or dish, add Solution B (activator: yellow cap), and mix thoroughly.
 - b. Wait 5 minutes.
 - c. Add Solution C (initiator: purple cap) and Solution D (buffer) and mix thoroughly.
 - d. Apply solution to cover the blot.
 - e. Develop specimen for 20 - 30 minutes. More or less time can be used to control particle size and intensity of signal.
6. Rinse repeatedly with deionized water.

Buffer 1: 20 mM phosphate
150 mM NaCl
pH 7.4
0.8% BSA (bovine serum albumin)
2 mM sodium azide (NaN₃)

Buffer 2 (PBS):
20 mM phosphate
150 mM NaCl
pH 7.4

GOLD ENHANCEMENT FOR ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

This reagent is optimized for light microscopy and membrane blotting rather than for electron microscopy. For electron microscopy applications, we recommend that you use Goldenhance EM (catalog number 2113) which is optimized for EM use. However, this reagent (2112) may also be used for electron microscopy, particularly if larger particles are desired or a high labeling density is anticipated.

RELATED GOLDENHANCE™ PRODUCTS

#2114 GoldEnhance™ EM Plus
#2113 GoldEnhance™ EM
#2112 GoldEnhance™ LM

REFERENCES

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2. Hacker, G.W., Hauser-Kronberger, C., Zehbe, I., Su, H., Schiechl, A., Dietze, O. and Tubbs, R.: *Cell Vision*, **4**, 54-65 (1997); Zehbe, I., G.W. Hacker, H. Su, C. Hauser-Kronberger, J.F. Hainfeld, and R. Tubbs. 1997. *Am. J. Pathol.*, **150**, 1553-1561 (1997).
3. Moeremans, M. et al., *J. Immunol. Meth.* **74**, 353 (1984).

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