



Using a Gel-Doc Camera to Take Plaque Pictures

OBJECTIVE

To keep a visual record of plaque morphology using a GelDoc XR+ System.

BACKGROUND

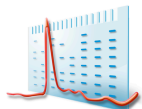
Properly documenting progress and results is a cornerstone of good scientific technique. For this reason, it is imperative that pictures documenting plaque morphology are taken throughout the process of purification to track progress and report findings.

HELPFUL TIPS


- This protocol only outlines procedures for using the GelDoc camera; for instructions and general guidelines to taking good plaque pictures and for instructions using a simple digital camera, please refer to **TOOLBOX – Taking Plaque Pictures**.
- The GelDoc system is an expensive piece of equipment. Do not tamper with settings that are not necessary or unfamiliar. If following these instructions cannot generate a good picture, ask for help in the lab as the previous user may have altered certain hardware or settings or software preferences.

PROCEDURES

1. On the computer, launch “Image Lab” from the dock.



2. Click the “New Protocol” button located on the top left of the screen.
3. Click “Select,” hover over “Custom,” and select “Plates.”
4. Click “Position Gel” (a yellow button on the bottom left of the window). Ensure that the “Epi White” button on the GelDoc camera has been selected.
5. Remove the lid of the plate, open the door of the GelDoc camera hood, and place the plate on the transilluminator stage.
6. Using the “Live View,” center the plate. Click the green “+” and “-” buttons or slide the zoom bar to adjust the image. Exposure and focus will be automatically corrected later, and is not a concern.
7. Click “Run Protocol.”
8. An image will appear in a new window in a few seconds.

9. Click the contrast button () and adjust the brightness and contrasts.
10. Hit "Save." Name the image and save it in an appropriate folder in the hard drive under "Documents."
11. Print out the image (and save it in the notebook alongside analyses and explanations) by clicking "File" then "Print." Ensure the correct printer (Mitsubishi P93D) is selected.
12. To save a copy of the image in a format that can be recognized by other computers (such as PNG, TIFF, JPG), select "File," then "Export," then "Export for Publication." A 300 or 600 dpi image is suitable for publication, but a 150 dpi image would suffice for most PowerPoint presentations.