

DireCt**Quant 100W USER GUIDE**

Colourless DNA / RNA / protein solubilisation reagent for Direct DNA analysis by PCR, qPCR and fluorimetric detection Direct RNA analysis by RT-PCR and RT-qPCR Direct protein analysis by Western blot



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CONTENTS

ABOUT Dire <i>Ct</i> Quant 100W2
TECHNOLOGY BEHIND DireCtQuant 100W3
REAGENTS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE USER4
REAGENT STORAGE4
Mammalian Tissue Samples Solubilisation5
Mammalian Adherent Culture Cells Solubilisation6
Solubilisation of Mammalian Cells Grown in Suspension Culture7
Bacterial and Yeast Samples Solubilisation8
Plant Tissue Samples Solubilisation9
Liquid Samples Processing10
SAMPLE STORAGE (Stop-the-Time [™] technology)11
SAMPLE ANALYSIS12
DNA analysis12
 DNA quantity measurement12
– PCR/qPCR
 Ultrafast sample preparation for genotyping purposes13
RNA analysis14
 One step RT-qPCR14
– Two step RT-qPCR
Protein analysis
– SDS-PAGE16
DIRECTQUANT SOLUBILIZATION REAGENT COMPATIBILITY18
GENERAL STATEMENT

ABOUT DireCtQuant 100W

The DNA/RNA/protein solubilisation reagent **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** is conceptually new reagent, which enables quantitative analysis of a biological sample in a very straightforward and precise way. The main advantage of using **Dire**Ct**Quant 100SW** is that DNA, RNA and proteins can be analysed from a single sample without the need of prior separation and purification. This reagent provides instant and complete solubilisation of the cells in the sample and permits effective extraction of proteins, genomic, plasmid, plastid, mitochondrial and viral DNA as well as messenger, structural (such as ribosomal), transport, microRNA, non-coding and viral RNA.

The DNA in **Dire***Ct***Quant 100W** solubilised sample can be directly analysed by PCR, quantitative (Real Time) PCR (qPCR) or quantified in solution using <u>Dire*Ct*Quant DNAQ</u> (Ref **#DCQDNAQ**). The RNA in the sample can be directly analysed by reverse transcription followed by PCR or quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) and the proteins can be directly analysed by Western blot.

The instant disruption of the structure of the cell and the biopolymers by **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** effectively blocks the endogenous enzymatic activity of the sample, preventing any degradation of macromolecules and providing exceptional long-term storage conditions for the majority of the samples referred as Stop-The-TimeTM technology.

Dire*Ct***Quant 100W** provides a one-step, single reagent workflow, reduces the time of analysis and increases the precision and reliability of the study.

TECHNOLOGY BEHIND Dire*Ct***Quant 100W**

Dire*Ct***Quant 100W** reagent is stable micro-emulsion at a precise equilibrium state. Upon contact with the biological sample at high temperature the reagent disrupts its structure and instantly induces a long-term suppression of the enzymatic activities. With our innovative **Stop-The-Time**[™] technology included in this reagent individual biopolymers are encased in a protective shell, which guarantees exceptional long term storage capability. Upon mixing with water an abrupt structural transition is induced, which then permits analysis by enzyme mediated assays such as PCR.

It is important not to alter the composition of the extraction reagent and to use the recommended sample to reagent ratio in order to preserve these qualities.

REAGENTS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE USER

- Dounce homogenizer/Potter-Elvehjem/bead homogenizer
- Micro centrifuge
- Thermo block capable of maintaining 90°C, preferably with agitation
- Nucleases/proteases-free water
- Reagents required by the following analisys such as PCR, qPCR, RT-PCR,RT-qPCR, Western blot o fluorimetric detection of DNA

REAGENT STORAGE

Dire*Ct***Quant 100W** is shipped at ambient temperature. Upon arrival, store at room temperature. Once opened, should be stored at room temperature and used within one month.

Mammalian Tissue Samples Solubilisation

1. Weigh the tissue and add 3.0 ml of DireCtQuant 100W for every 100 mg of tissue sample.

* **NOTE:** Both fresh and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen tissues can be used. In case of starting from a frozen tissue, proceed directly by dropping the frozen sample in appropriate amount of **DireCtQuant 100ST**.

Sample weight	#DCQ100W
10 mg	0.3 ml
100 mg	3 ml
300 mg	9 ml
600 mg	18 ml

2. Homogenize completely with Dounce, Potter-Elvehjem or bead homogenizer.

- CRITICAL: Complete homogenization of the tissue is critical. Usually 20 strokes of Dounce homogenizer with tight clearance (approx. 50 μm) are sufficient for soft tissues. For harder tissues use Potter-Elvehjem homogenizer at median speed and avoid creation of bubbles. No particles after homogenization should be visible by eye. Turbidity in case of lipid rich tissues (such as brain, liver, etc.) is expected and normal. If you are trying to solubilise tissues rich in collagen, keratins or cartilage your sample is not going to be completely solubilised and a pellet in step 5. will be observed. DireCtQuant 100W is not intended to break covalent bonds and as a result can't solubilise that type of extracellular matrix. In spite of this, DireCtQuant 100W will effectively extract the soluble components (DNA, RNA and not cross-linked proteins) into the supernatant if adequate homogenization is achieved. Homogenize as much as possible with the appropriate method using for example bead homogenizer.
- 3. Transfer the lysate to an appropriate vial which can be securely closed, i.e vial with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your sample in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the next step.
- 4. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - ! **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot vials.
- 5. Leave to cool down to room temperature and centrifuge at 5000 rcf for 1 minute.
- 6. If a pellet or lipid layer on the top is observed, transfer the supernatant to a new vial.
- 7. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

Mammalian Adherent Culture Cells Solubilisation

- 1. Completely remove the cell culture medium by aspiration.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** It is not recommended to trypsinise or detach the adherent cells in any other way. This can induce cell loss, RNA degradation or gene expression changes.
- 2. Add a minimum 200 μ l of Dire*Ct*Quant 100W for every cm² of confluent cell layer in a plate.
 - NOTE: The optimal extraction ratio is 10⁶ normal diploid human, rat or mouse cells per 1ml of DireCtQuant 100W. The recommended maximum is 2x10⁶ cells/ml of DireCtQuant 100W. For some cell types, as polyploid cell lines, the number of cells should be reduced to avoid viscosity.
- 3. Collect completely the cells (using a cell scraper for example) and transfer to an appropriate vial which can be securely closed, i.e vial with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your sample in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the following steps.
- 4. Mix the cell lysate with a pipette (pipetting up and down three to five times is usually sufficient) until the sample appears homogeneous.
 - NOTE: If the lysate is too viscous and is difficult to pipette, this means that the amount of cells is higher than the maximum recommended ratio of 2x10⁶ cells/ml of DireCtQuant 100W. In such a case add 50% more DireCtQuant 100W to the homogenate and mix again.
- 5. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.
- 6. Leave to cool down to room temperature.
- 7. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

Solubilisation of Mammalian Cells Grown in Suspension Culture

- **1.** Count the number of cells in the suspension culture. Use haemocytometer or automatic cell counter
- 2. Collect the cells by centrifugation at 1000rcf for 1 min and discard the supernatant completely by aspiration.
- 3. Resuspend the pellet in Dire*Ct*Quant 100W using the optimal ratio of 10⁶ diploid human/rat/mouse cells per ml of Dire*Ct*Quant 100W.
- 4. Mix the cell lysate with a pipette (pipetting up and down three to five times is usually sufficient) until the sample appears homogeneous.
 - NOTE: If the lysate is too viscous and is difficult to pipette, this means that the amount of cells is higher than the maximum recommended ratio of 2x10⁶ cells/ml of DireCtQuant 100W. In such a case add 50% more DireCtQuant 100W to the homogenate and mix again..
- 5. Transfer the lysate to an appropriate vial which can be securely closed, i.e vial with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your sample in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the following steps.
- 6. Heat at 90°C for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.
- 7. Leave to cool down to room temperature.
- 8. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

Bacterial and Yeast Samples Solubilisation

1. Count the number of cells in the suspension culture.

Use haemocytometer or automatic cell counter.

- 2. Collect the cells by centrifugation at 10 000 rcf for 1 minute and discard supernatant completely.
 - * **NOTE:** Bacteria and yeast cells are covered by a cell wall, this is an extensive cross-linked structure which cannot be solubilised, however the nucleic acids and the soluble proteins will be effectively extracted.
- 3. Resuspend the pellet in Dire*Ct*Quant 100W using the optimal ratio of 10⁷ bacterial or 10⁶ yeast cells per ml of Dire*Ct*Quant 100W until appears homogeneous.
- 4. Transfer the lysate to an appropriate vial which can be securely closed, i.e vials with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your sample in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the following steps.
- 5. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.
- 6. Leave to cool down to room temperature.
- 7. Centrifuge at 10 000 rcf for 1 minute and transfer the supernatant to a new vial. Discard the pellet.

NOTE: If the lysate is too viscous and is difficult to pipette, this means that the amount of cells is higher than the maximum recommended ratio of 2×10^7 bacterial or 2×10^6 yeast cells per ml of **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W**. In such a case add 50% more **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** to the homogenate and return to step 4.

8. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

Plant Tissue Samples Solubilisation

- 1. Weigh the tissue and add 3.0 ml of Dire*Ct*Quant 100W for every 100 mg of tissue sample.
 - * **NOTE:** Plant cells are covered by a cell wall, this is an extensive cross-linked structure which is not intended to be solubilised, however the nucleic acids and the soluble proteins will be effectively extracted when mechanical disruption of the cell wall is achieved.

Sample weight	#DCQ100W	
10 mg	0.3 ml	
100 mg	3 ml	
300 mg	9 ml	
600 mg	18 ml	

- 2. Homogenize completely with bead homogenizer.
 - ! **CRITICAL:** Complete homogenization of the sample material is critical. Optimize the time, size and type of the beads to achieve complete homogenization. Alternatively freeze in liquid nitrogen, grind to powder and add to appropriate amount of **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W**.
- 3. Transfer the suspension to an appropriate vial which can be securely closed, i.e vials with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the following steps.
- 4. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - ! **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.
- 5. Leave to cool down to room temperature and centrifuge at 5000 rcf for 1 minute.
- 6. Transfer the supernatant to a fresh vial.
- 7. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

Liquid Samples Processing

DireCt**Quant 100W** provide a unique opportunity to analyse the cell-free (circulating, exosome-associated) nucleic acids without the purification steps usually associated with significant nucleic acid loss. With a properly optimized assay, is possible to detect single molecule per μ l of sample.

- Mix the sample (serum, plasma, cerebrospinal liquid) with equal volume of DireCtQuant 100W (e.g. mix 1 ml of plasma with 1 ml of DireCtQuant 100W).
 For whole blood samples (fresh, freshly frozen or anticoagulated) mix 100 μl of blood with 1 ml of DireCtQuant 100W.
- 2. Use a vial which can be securely closed, i.e vials with screw cap. Use a vial with a volume similar to the volume of your sample in order to minimise volume changes due to evaporation in the next step.
- 3. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.
 - ! **CAUTION:** Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.
- 4. Leave to cool down to room temperature and centrifuge at 5000 rcf for 1 minute. Transfer the supernatant to a fresh vial.
- 5. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).

SAMPLE STORAGE (Stop-the-Time[™] technology)

Biological samples solubilised in **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** have exceptional storage stability. This provides unprecedented flexibility during analysis procedure. Once extracted, the samples can be even stored at the lab bench if the analysis is completed within a week. This opens also the possibility for performing field extractions, as very simple portable equipment is required for this step, followed by standard ambient temperature transport to the laboratory. This opens a whole new possibility for the environmental research, field diagnostic and food analysis^{*}. Our tests have shown <u>no detectable degradation</u> of **DNA**, **RNA** or **protein** in samples stored in undiluted **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** in the following conditions:

- at 37°C for a week;
- at room temperature for a week;
- at 4°C for a week;
- at -20°C for 3 months;
- at -80°C for at least 6 months;
- up to eight heat (90°C) and cool (RT) cycles;
- up to eight freeze(-20°C)and thaw (RT)cycles.

The DNA degradation was assessed by qPCR, the RNA degradation was assessed by RT-qPCR and protein degradation was assessed by densitometry comparison of protein bands separated by gel electrophoresis. We estimate that the precision of the assays used is better than 10%

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SAMPLE ANALYSIS

These guidelines are provided as a starting point for your consecutive analysis. They will require the corresponding reagents and equipment, which are not supplied with **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W**.

DNA analysis

– DNA quantity measurement

DNA quantity in samples prepared with **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** can be measured using fluorescent DNA stain <u>DireCtQuant DNAQ</u> (Ref **#DCQDNAQ**). As the DNA amount per cell is a constant (with few exceptions) DNA quantification allows precise estimation of the total number of cells per μ l of sample solubilised with **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W**. The calculated number of cells per volume of sample is important in order to use the optimal cells/volume ratio in the PCR/qPCR/RT-qPCR and Western blot analysis.

For more information see **<u>DireCtQuant DNAQ protocol</u>**

- PCR/qPCR

Samples prepared with **Dire***Ct***Quant 100W** can be directly analysed by PCR/qPCR.

For 20 μ l reaction:

- **1.** Add up to $1 \mu l$ of the sample solubilised with Dire*Ct*Quant 100W.
- 2. Add Forward and Reverse primers or hydrolysis probe depending of the chemistry of your assay.
- 3. Add PCR grade water
- 4. Add PCR/qPCR buffer/master mix.
- 5. Add thermo stable polymerase if not included in the buffer as PCR/qPCR master mix.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** It is very important to follow the exact order of adding reagents to the reaction. Polymerase enzyme/ Polymerase enzyme containing master mix should be the **last** component to add as undiluted **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent will inhibit the polymerase activity.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** The volume of the **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent should not exceed **1/20** of the final volume of the reaction.
 - * **NOTE:** For steps 2 to 5 check the instructions provided by your PCR/qPCR kit and equipment manufacturer.

* NOTE: Suggested format for PCR/qPCR analysis is 1000 cells per reaction (for example 1µl DireCtQuant 100W sample extracted at optimal conditions). This guarantees low variability and a confident detection of expression as low as single gene/transcript copy per cell. Using significantly higher number of cells per reaction does not give any advantage as this is likely to inhibit the PCR reaction. For more information about how to calculate number of cell per volume of sample please consult DireCtQuant DNAQ protocol.

- Ultrafast sample preparation for genotyping purposes

This minimalistic procedure is designed to prepare genotyping ready sample from minimal amount of tissue in less than 5 minutes. It will generate sample sufficient for at least fifty genotyping reactions from a single sample.

- 1. Use a small piece of tissue mouse/rat tail clip of not more than 1.5 mm, a single ear punch or similar. Take care to clean well the instruments used for sample collection to avoid cross-contaminations.
- 2. Insert the sample into 0.2 or 0.5 ml tube containing 55 μl Dire*Ct*Quant 100W. Make sure the tissue sample is completely submerged in the reagent. Spin down the tissue sample if required.
- 3. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm or manually inverting the vial three to five times during the heat incubation.

CAUTION: Use appropriate protection when handling hot tubes.

- 4. Leave to cool down to room temperature and centrifuge at 5000 rcf for 1 minute.
- 5. Transfer 50 μ l of the supernatant to a fresh vial.
- 6. Proceed with the analysis or store at -20°C (see sample storage).
- 7. Use 1 μl per 20 μl PCR reaction.

For very high resolution electrophoresis use our nucleic acids electrophoresis (Ref #DCQNAE). For PCR products of less than 100 bp, usually employed for genotyping purposes, resolution of single base pair differences in 10 min. is achievable.

RNA analysis

Samples prepared with **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** can be directly analysed by RT-qPCR.

! **IMPORTANT:** It is very important to use **exon-exon spanning** primers or probes when analysing RNA in samples prepared with **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W**, as no separation of DNA and RNA is performed and they are both present in the sample.

We strongly recommend the use of one-step RT-qPCR kits over two-step RT-qPCR kits.

- One step RT-qPCR

For 20 µl reaction:

- **1.** Add up to $1 \mu l$ of the sample solubilised with Dire*Ct*Quant 100W.
- 2. Add Forward and Reverse primers or hydrolysis probe.
- 3. Add PCR grade water
- 4. Add RT-qPCR buffer/ master mix
- 5. Add RT polymerase
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** It is very important to follow the exact order of adding reagents to the reaction. Polymerase enzyme/ Polymerase enzyme containing master mix should be the **last** component to add as undiluted **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent will inhibit the polymerase activity.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** The volume of the **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent should not exceed **1/20** of the final volume of the reaction.
 - * **NOTE:** For steps 2 to 5 check the instructions provided by your PCR/qPCR kit and equipment manufacturer.
 - * NOTE: Suggested format for PCR/qPCR analysis is 1000 cells per reaction (for example 1000 cells per 1 μl DireCtQuant 100W). This guarantees low variability and a confident detection of expression as low as single gene copy per cell. Using significantly higher number of cells per reaction does not give any advantage as this is likely to inhibit the PCR reaction. For more information about how to calculate number of cell per volume of sample please consult <u>DireCtQuant DNAQ protocol</u>.

- Two step RT-qPCR

For 20 µl reactions:

- First step (Reverse transcription):
- **1.** Add up to $1 \mu l$ of the sample solubilised with Dire*Ct*Quant 100W.
- 2. Add gene specific primer, random hexamers or oplyT primers if not included in the mastermix.
- 3. Add PCR grade water.
- 4. Add RT buffer/ master mix.
- 5. Add RT polymerase.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** It is very important to follow the exact order of adding reagents to the reaction. Polymerase enzyme/ Polymerase enzyme containing master mix should be the **last** component to add as undiluted **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent will inhibit the polymerase activity.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** The volume of the **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** reagent should not exceed **1/20** of the final volume of the reaction.
 - * **NOTE:** For steps 2 to 5 check the instructions provided by your PCR/qPCR kit manufacturer.
 - * NOTE: Suggested format for PCR/qPCR analysis is 1000 cells per reaction (for example 1µl DireCtQuant 100W sample extracted at optimal conditions). This guarantees low variability and a confident detection of expression as low as single transcript copy per cell. Using significantly higher number of cells per reaction does not give any advantage as this is likely to inhibit the PCR reaction. For more information about how to calculate number of cell per volume of sample please consult <u>DireCtQuant DNAQ protocol</u>.
 - * **NOTE:** We suggest the usage of gene specific primer strategy, as we have observed that this will provide the best sensitivity.
 - Second step (qPCR):

For 20 µl reactions:

- 1. Add up to 2 μ l of the product (cDNA) of the first reaction.
- 2. Add Forward and Reverse primers or hydrolysis probe.
- 3. Add PCR grade water
- 4. Add qPCR buffer/ master mix

Add thermo stable polymerase if not included in the buffer as PCR/qPCR master mix.

Protein analysis

- SDS-PAGE

We strongly recommend the use of **<u>DireCtQuant ELM</u>** (Ref **#DCQELM**) loading buffer for preparing the samples extracted with **DireCtQuant 100W** for SDS-PAGE.

For total volume of 40 µl:

1. Prepare the sample by mixing:

- Add up to 31 μl of the sample prepared with Dire*Ct*Quant 100W
- Add 8 µl of 5x loading buffer (<u>DireCtQuant ELM</u>)
- Add 1 μl of a reducing agent of your choice (2-mercaptoethanol, 1M dithiothreitol or 0.5M TCEP).
 - * NOTE: 2-Mercaptoethanol/8-mercaptoethanol (2-ME) is usually supplied as a 14M solution (pure liquid) which will result in 360 mM final concentration if 1 µl is used for the sample preparation. Dithiothreitol (DTT) should be freshly prepared as a 1M solution in water (the resulting final concentration will be 25 mM). Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine) (TCEP) should be prepared as 0,5M solution at neutral pH sol. The stock is stable at room temperature (the resulting final concentration will be 12.5mM). We recommend the use of TCEP, as it is without-odour, non volatile and irreversible reducing agent.
 - * **NOTE:** Suggested format for Western blot is 10,000 30,000 cells per 5 mm wide lane, depending on the detection condition. This corresponds to 10-30 μl **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** sample extracted at optimal conditions.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** Please use only non-diluted **Dire**Ct**Quant 100W** to equalize sample volumes. Don't use water, this will interfere with the migration of proteins and tracking dye characteristics.
 - ! **IMPORTANT:** The <u>DireCtQuant ELM</u> should be used ONLY with samples extracted with DireCtQuant 100ST or DireCtQuant 100W buffers.
- 2. Heat for 3 minutes at 90°C with shaking at 750 rpm.
- 3. Let the sample to cool down to room temperature and load on the gel.
 - * **NOTE:** The <u>*DireCtQuant ELM*</u> contains a temperature indicator which serves as tracking dye as well. The colour of the sample is changing as follows:

– ORANGE - during the incubation at 90°C indicating proper reduction/protein denaturalization conditions.

- **RED** - when room temperature is reached and sample is ready for loading and during the electrophoresis.

- **PINK** - when stored at -20°C.

Some lots of reducing reagents contain impurities which can interfere with the sensitivity of the temperature indicator, visible by the change of the colour of the sample at room temperature after adding the reducing agent to the sample. In this case you will not observe the clear colour transitions but if proper temperature incubation is performed the sample preparation will be successful.

* NOTE: The tracking dye front is **RED** and clearly defined compared with traditional bromphenol blue-containing tracking dyes. The dye migrates in front of the leading ion in the Laemmli system. No residual binding to proteins is observed as in some cases with bromphenol blue. The absorption spectrum is specifically selected to not interfere with in-gel or membrane fluorescence detection by infrared scanners. The loading media is completely compatible with Laemmli system and MOPS/MES neutral electrophoresis systems. In case of BisTris-gels used in combination with MES buffer, the dye front is not as sharp and the colour can be yellow, but the electrophoresis assay will be completed correctly in spite of this.

DIRECTQUANT SOLUBILIZATION REAGENT COMPATIBILITY

Dire*Ct***Quant 100W** solubilization reagent is found to be fully compatible with a broad spectrum of kits available on the market for applications, including PCR, qPCR and RT-qPCR

PCR	qPCR	RT-qPCR
DNA AmpliGel (BioTools)	SsoAdvanced Universal SYBR green/probes Supermix (Bio-Rad)	TaqMan [®] RNA-to-Ct™ 1-Step Kit (Applied Biosystems)
DNA AmpliTools	iTaq Universal SYBR	iTaq Universal One-Step Kit
(BioTools)	Green/probes supermix (Bio-Rad)	(Bio-Rad)
AmpliToolsHotSplit	SsoFast Evagreen Universal	iScript One-Step
(BioTools)	Supermix	(Bio-Rad)
	(Bio-Rad)	
іТаq	PerfeCTa line	
(Bio-Rad)	(QuantaBio)	

(QuantaBio)

GENERAL STATEMENT

Handle our products in accordance with safe laboratory practices: Wear suitable protective gloves, eyewear and clothing.

Please read and understand the MSDS data provided and updated at www.directquant.eu

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In case of any doubt please feel free to contact DireCtQuant team at: customersupport@directquant.eu