



Biosystems™

*The Transfection &
Gene Expression Experts*

U-937 Cell Avalanche® Transfection Reagent

Cat. No. EZT- U937-1

Size: 0.5 ml
1.5 ml

Store at 4°C

Cell Line Information:

Designations: U-937

Morphology: monocyte

Source: histiocytic lymphoma

Culture Properties: suspension

Cellular Products: lysozyme; beta-2-microglobulin (beta 2 microglobulin); tumor necrosis factor (TNF) after stimulation with phorbol myristic acid (PMA)

Age: 37 years

Gender: male

Ethnicity: Caucasian

The U-937 cell line was derived by Sundstrom and Nilsson in 1974 from malignant cells obtained from the pleural effusion of a patient with histiocytic lymphoma.

Studies since 1979 have shown that U-937 cells can be induced to terminal monocytic differentiation by supernatants from human mixed lymphocyte cultures, phorbol esters, vitamin D3, gamma interferon, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and, retinoic acid. The cells express the Fas antigen, and are sensitive to TNF and anti-Fas antibodies.

The Transfection Reagent:

Transfection of suspension cells, such as U-937 Cells, has always been challenging, both technically and financially. The most common systems currently used for relatively efficient molecular delivery to these cells are expensive electroporation instruments. However, electroporation usually leads to cell death, primarily when the electrical fields cause permanent permeabilization of the membrane and the consequent loss of cell homeostasis, in a process known as irreversible electroporation.

U-937 Cell Avalanche® Transfection Reagent (Hereafter “The Reagent”) is a new, proprietary solution specifically designed for transfection on U-937 cells. The proprietary formulation of lipids and polymers ensures the highest possible transfection efficiencies and viabilities for U-937 cells.

Features:

- Specifically optimized to deliver nucleic acids into U-937 Cells
- Highest efficiency to ensure experimental success
- Extremely gentle to cells
- Animal-free
- Suitable for Reverse Transfection
- Compatible with transfection in any plate formats
- Economical: High efficiency means less amount of nucleic acid & reagent is needed
- Developed and manufactured by EZ Biosystems

BEFORE YOU START:

Important Tips for Optimal Transfection

1. Prepare high-quality plasmid DNA at 0.5–5 µg/µl in deionized water or TE buffer. A GFP (green fluorescent protein) plasmid can be used to determine transfection efficiency.
2. Use Opti-MEM® I Reduced Serum Medium (Life Technologies) or regular DMEM without serum to make The Reagent and nucleic acid mix (Only Opti-MEM® I will be mentioned in the remaining parts of the protocol for simplification purpose). Do not use NaCl₂ solution or PBS.
3. Maintain the same seeding conditions between experiments. Use low-passage cells; make sure that cells are healthy and greater than 90% viable before transfection.
4. The Reagent is extremely gentle to cells. However, transfection process will impose stress on cells, no matter what type of transfection methods you use. The trick is to get the balance between transfection efficiency and cell viability. Increasing the number of cells plated per well or decreasing DNA/The Reagent amount will minimize the effect of transfection on cell growth and viability. With careful adjustment, as described in page 3 and 4, this can be achieved while keeping the highest transfection efficiency.
5. Don't use antibiotics in the culture medium during the first 24 hours of transfection.

Protocols

1 DNA Transfection

1.1 Cell Seeding

For optimal DNA transfection conditions, use low-passage cells; make sure that cells are healthy and greater than 90% viable before transfection. Typically, for experiments in 24-well plates, about 2×10^5 cells are seeded per well in 0.5 ml of fresh medium **without antibiotics** prior to transfection. For other culture formats, refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Recommended number of cells to seed the day before transfection

Culture vessel	Number of cells to seed	Surface area per well (cm ²)	Volume of medium per well to seed the cells (ml)
96-well	* 4×10^4 **(7,500-10,000)	0.3	0.1
24-well	* 2×10^5 **(50,000-80,000)	1.9	0.5
12-well	* 4×10^5 **(80,000-150,000)	3.8	1
6-well/35 mm	* 8×10^5 **(150,000-250,000)	9.4	2
60 mm/flask 25 cm ²	* 2×10^6 **(250,000-800,000)	25-28	5
100 mm/flask 75 cm ²	* 6×10^6 **(1×10^6 - 2×10^6)	75-78.5	10
150 mm/flask 175 cm ²	* 1.3×10^7 **(2×10^6 - 5×10^6)	153-175	25

*For U-937 cells

**For adherent culture cells (see section 1.4)

1.2 DNA Transfection on U-937 cells

Due to cell culture variations and passage number differences, U-937 cells from different sources may have different sensitivity to The Reagent. If this is the first time that you are using The Reagent on your U-937 cells, follow the following procedures and Figure 1 for fine-tuning optimization (**The fine-tuning optimization procedures are extremely important for successful transfection. The amount of The Reagent needed for maximum transfection on U-937 cells from different sources may differ dramatically**).

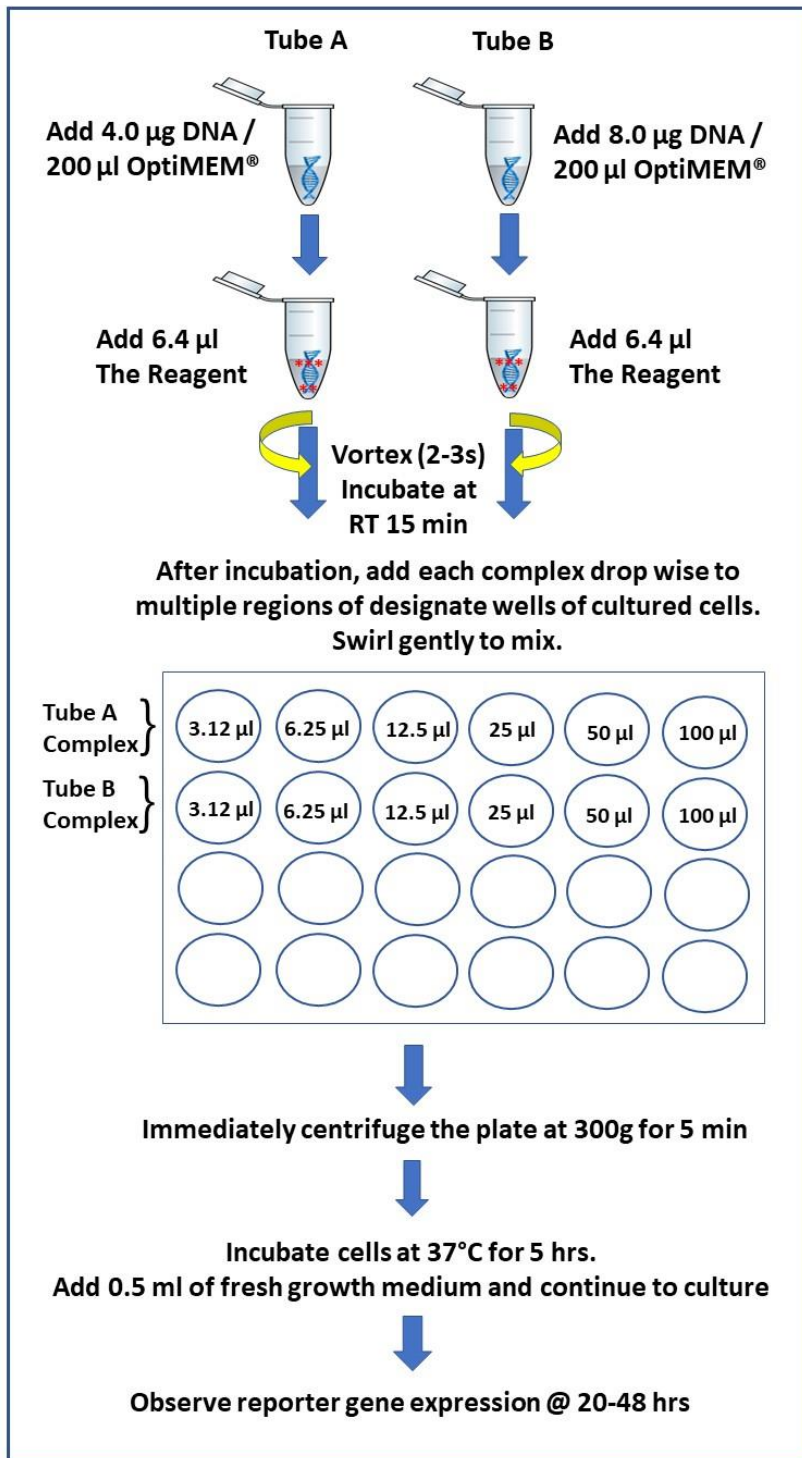
As an example, the following procedures and Figure 1 are for fine-tuning optimization on 24-well plate:

1. Bring The Reagent and serum-free medium (OptiMEM®I) to room temperature before starting.
2. Add 200µl of OptiMEM®I into two 1.5ml tubes (Tube A and B).
3. Add 4.0 µg of DNA to Tube A and 8.0 µg of DNA to Tube B.
4. Mix The Reagent prior to preparing complexes. Add 6.4 µl of The Reagent to both Tube A and Tube B containing 200µl of different concentration of DNA solution (20.0 µg/ml and 40.0 µg/ml respectively). Vortex for 2-3 seconds. Incubate each tube for 15 minutes at room temperature.
5. After incubation, add 3.12, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, and 100µl of DNA/The Reagent complexes dropwise directly to the corresponding wells of the 24-well cell culture plate (See Figure 1). Swirl plate gently.
6. Immediately centrifuge the plate at 300 g for 5 min.
7. Incubate the cells at 37°C in a CO2 incubator 5 hours.
8. Add 0.5 ml of fresh growth medium, and continue to culture.

Expression of reporter gene activity should generally be assessed at 20-48 hours post-transfection. GFP expression is maximal at 40-48 hours post-transfection.

After you have completed the fine-tuning optimization steps, choose the amount of DNA/The Reagent that gave you the optimal balance of potency & low cytotoxicity (which usually is the lowest dose that gave you the same high transfection efficiency as other higher doses did) for all of your future experiments on this specific cell type.

Figure 1.



1.3 Scale Up or Down Transfections

Use Table 2 to scale the amount of DNA/The Reagent for your transfection experiment.

Table 2. Scaling Up or Down Transfection Instruction

Culture Vessel	Multiplication factor*
96-well	0.17
48-well	0.50
24-well	1.00
12-well	2.00
6-well	5.00
60-mm	11.05**
10-cm	28.95**
T75	39.47**

**After determining the optimum amount of DNA/The Reagent from the fine-tuning optimization procedures on the above 24-well plate, use the multiplication factor to determine the DNA and The Reagent amount needed for your new plate format.*

***For large format transfections, the centrifugation step may be skipped without obviously affecting transfection efficiency.*

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1.4 DNA Transfection on cells other than U-937 cells

U-937 Cell Avalanche® Transfection Reagent can also be used on the following cells with high transfection efficiencies.

293 Cell, 293T/17 Cell, NIH/3T3 Cell, 3T3-L1 Cell, BALB/3T3 clone A31, 3T3-Swiss albino Cell, CT26.WT Cell, NCTC Clone 929 Cell

This protocol usually provides satisfactory transfection efficiency with invisible cytotoxicity on the above cells. However, additional optimization may be needed for certain type of cells. Optimizations may include: cell density; the amount of DNA and The Reagent; DNA/The Reagent ratio, or incubation time for the mixture of The Reagent/DNA etc.

If you want to achieve the best transfection result for a specific type of cells, we recommend using the respective cell type/cell line specific Avalanche® transfection reagents. Those reagents have been optimized on both recipes and protocols, and have been proved to have the best transfection results for the respective cell lines or primary cells. You can easily find the respective Avalanche® Transfection Reagents specific for your cells by using the filters of the product list in EZ Biosystems website:

www.ezbiosystems.com

2 siRNA Transfection

Though U-937 Cell Avalanche® Transfection Reagent formulation was optimized for DNA transfection, it can also be used for siRNA transfection. The following are recommended protocol. Protocol optimization may be needed.

2.1 Cell Seeding

For optimal siRNA transfection conditions, use low-passage cells; make sure that cells are healthy and greater than 90% viable before transfection. Typically, for experiments in 6-well plates, about 5×10^5 cells are seeded per well in 2 ml of growth medium without antibiotics prior to transfection. For other culture formats, refer to Table 3.

Table 3. Recommended number of cells to seed the day before transfection.

Culture vessel	Number of cells to seed	Surface area per well (cm ²)	Medium per well to seed the cells (ml)
24-well	1.25×10^5	1.9	0.5
12-well	2.5×10^5	3.8	1
6-well/35 mm	5×10^5	9.4	2
60 mm/flask 25 cm ²	1.25×10^6	25-28	5
100 mm/flask 75 cm ²	3.75×10^6	75-78.5	10

2.2 siRNA Transfection

We recommend using 10 to 50 nM siRNA (final concentration). The following conditions are given per well of a 6-well plate. For other culture format, please refer to Table 4.

1. Dilute 22 to 110 pmoles siRNA (final concentration: 10 to 50 nM) into 200 µl of Opti-MEM® Reduced-Serum Medium or regular high glucose DMEM without serum. Mix by vortexing.
2. Briefly vortex The Reagent, and add 1.0-5.0 µl into the diluted siRNA. Immediately vortex for 10 s.
3. Incubate for 15 min at RT.
4. Add the transfection mixture drop-wise into each well.
5. Gently rock the plates back and forth and from side to side, and immediately centrifuge the plate at 300 g for 5 min.
6. Gently put in incubator, and incubate at 37 °C CO₂.
7. Analyze after 24 h or later.

Table 4. siRNA transfection guidelines according to the cell culture vessel per well

Culture Vessel	siRNA (pmole) 10 nM	siRNA (pmole) 50 nM	The Reagent (μl)	Opti-MEM or DMEM (μl)	Growth medium (ml)	Final Volume in the well (ml)
24-well	5.5	27.5	*0.2-1.0	50	0.5	0.55
12-well	11	55	*0.4-2.0	100	1	1.1
6-well/ 35 mm	22	110	1.0-5.0	200	2	2.2
60 mm/ flask 25 cm ²	44	220	2.3-11.5	400	4	4.4
100 mm/ flask 75 cm ²	121	605	5.8-29	1100	11	12.1

* Dilute The Reagent 1:5 with H₂O prior application (4 μl reagent + 16 μl H₂O), and then use 5 times of volume for accurate pipetting.

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