

## Notices

### Limitations of use

**For research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.** Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, IDT does not intend these products to be used in clinical applications and does not warrant their fitness or suitability for any clinical diagnostic use. Purchaser is solely responsible for all decisions regarding the use of these products and any associated regulatory or legal obligations.

Safety data sheets pertaining to this product are available upon request.

### Safety Notices



**Reminder** symbols call attention to minor details that may be easily overlooked and compromise the procedure resulting in decreased assay performance.



**Caution** symbols denote critical steps in the procedure where risk of protocol failure or damage to the product itself could occur if not carefully observed.



**Stop** symbols indicate where this procedure may be safely suspended and resumed at a later time without risk of compromised assay performance. Make note of these steps and plan your workflow accordingly.

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## Revision history

Document Number	Date	Description of change
<i>RA-DOC-058/REV01</i>	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial release.</li> </ul>
<i>RA-DOC-058/REV02</i>	August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated figure coloring under “Workflow” section.</li> </ul>
<i>RA-DOC-058/REV03</i>	September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under section “Working with liquid reagents”, added enzyme and buffer component freeze thaw information.</li> </ul>
<i>RA-DOC-058/REV04</i>	November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated First and Second PCR cycling conditions to include separate anneal and extended steps.</li> <li>Updated branding.</li> <li>Updated links and email addresses.</li> </ul>
<i>RA-DOC-058/REV05</i>	January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated ethanol volume in cleanup steps.</li> <li>Updated reagent overage percentages.</li> <li>Added an automation note to increase elution volume where necessary.</li> <li>Updated PCR1 and PCR2 with automation note.</li> <li>Made note to scale volumes in “Reagents to Prepare Before Starting” section.</li> <li>Updated wording for unsealing liquid adapters for clarity.</li> </ul>

## Technical support

Contact us directly at [archer-tech@idtdna.com](mailto:archer-tech@idtdna.com).

## Overview

### Intended use

The Archer VARIANT*Plex*-HT protocol is intended for research applications in conjunction with Archer reagent kits and corresponding target-enrichment panels to produce high-complexity libraries for use with Illumina next-generation sequencing (NGS) platforms.

VARIANT*Plex* sequencing data produced by this method should be processed using Archer<sup>™</sup> Analysis software—a complete bioinformatics suite that leverages Anchored Multiplex PCR (AMP<sup>™</sup>) chemistry to identify unique sequence fragments, thus enabling error correction, read deduplication, and ultimately high-confidence alignment and mutation calling. Archer Analysis takes demultiplexed FASTQ files straight from the sequencer as input and produces both high-level and detailed mutation reporting, as well as raw text and BAM outputs for full transparency of the pipeline.

### Test principle

Anchored Multiplex PCR (AMP) is a rapid and scalable method to generate target-enriched libraries for NGS. AMP technology can be used for applications in targeted RNA sequencing, genomic DNA sequencing, and genotyping applications to generate a sequencing library in a matter of hours. Designed for low nucleic acid input, this process delivers robust performance across a variety of sample types.

AMP utilizes unidirectional gene-specific primers (GSPs) that enrich for both known and unknown mutations. Adapters that contain both molecular barcodes and sample indices permit quantitative multiplex data analysis, read deduplication, and accurate mutation calling.

The Archer Analysis software utilizes these molecular barcodes (MBCs) for duplicate read binning, error correction and read deduplication to support quantitative multiplex data analysis and confident mutation detection. Analysis reports both sequencing metrics and number of unique observations supporting called variants.

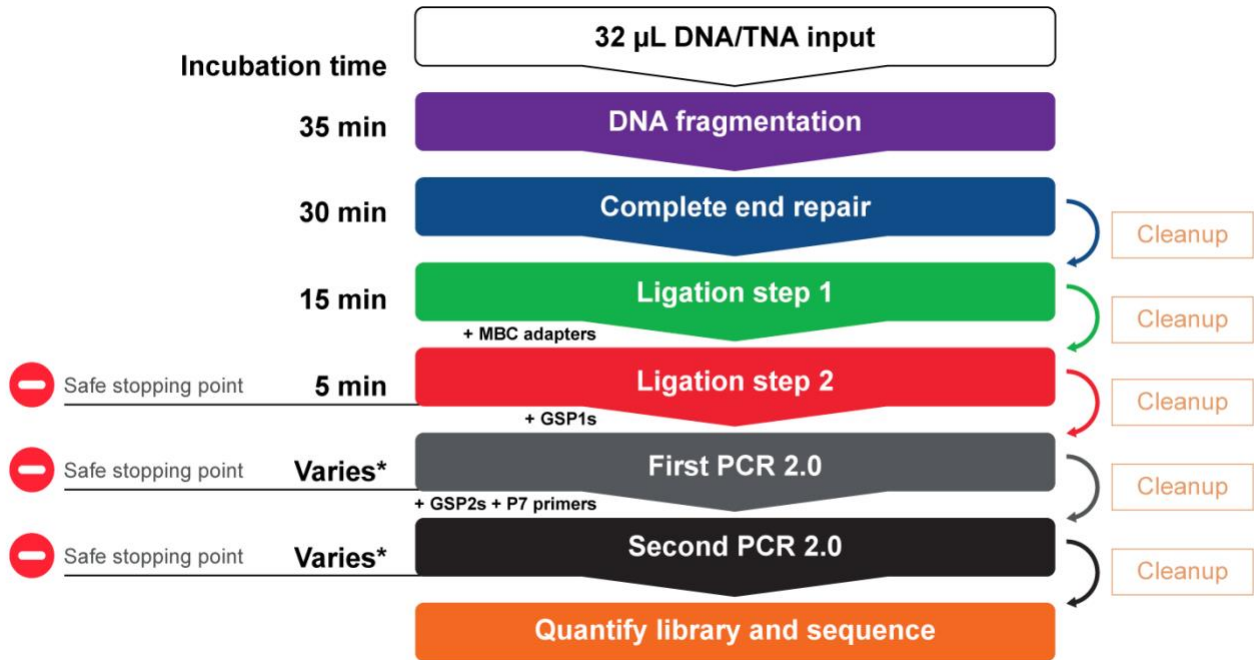
### Modular assay format Archer library preparation reagents include:

- Archer VARIANT*Plex*-HT reagents in liquid format for each step of library preparation.
- GSPs that target panel-specific regions of interest during PCR amplification.
- Archer MBC adapters are proprietary adapters that tag each unique molecule with a barcode and common region prior to amplification.

### Modular assay format

Archer kits include library preparation reagents and assay-specific liquid primers, which are used in conjunction with Archer MBC adapters to construct sequencing-ready libraries from total nucleic acid (TNA) or DNA samples. See individual product inserts for panel targets and read depth requirements.

### Workflow



\* First and Second PCR times vary based on the specific panel as well as individual lab cycling conditions. See panel specific Product Insert for more information.

**VARIANTPlex-HT Liquid Reagents for Illumina (SK0196, SK0192)**

Store at -30°C to -10°C

Materials Supplied		
Description	Part Number – 24 reaction kit (SK0196)	Part Number – 96 reaction kit (SK0192)
DNA Fragmentation Buffer Mix	SA0838	SA0814
DNA Fragmentation Enzyme Mix	SA0839	SA0815
Complete End Repair Buffer Mix	SA0804	SA0686
Complete End Repair Enzyme A	SA0805	SA0680
Complete End Repair Enzyme B	SA0806	SA0681
Ligation Step 1 Buffer Mix	SA0807	SA0685
Ligation Step 1 Enzyme	SA0808	SA0682
Ligation Step 2 Buffer Mix 2.0	SA0810	SA0816
Ligation Step 2 Enzyme	SA0809	SA0683
First PCR Buffer Mix 2.0	SA0834	SA0817
Second PCR Buffer Mix 2.0	SA0835	SA0822
PCR Enzyme	SA0837	SA0836

**Library Prep Cleanup Reagents (SK0190, SK0179)**

Store at 2°C to 8°C

Materials Supplied		
Description	Part Number – 24 reaction kit (SK0190)	Part Number – 96 reaction kit (SK0179)
Ligation Cleanup Beads	SA0655	SA0689
Ligation Cleanup Buffer	SA0656	SA0690

**Additional components**

Store at -30°C to -10°C

Materials Supplied		
Description	Part Number	Quantity
VARIANTPlex-HT Panel GSP1	Refer to product insert	24 or 96 reactions
VARIANTPlex-HT Panel GSP2	Refer to product insert	



Materials required, but not supplied have been optimized for proper application of the Archer Library preparation. Use of other materials have not been tested by IDT.

Materials Required, but not Supplied		
Description	Supplier	Part Number
Liquid P5 MBC + P7 Adapter Kit, 2304 reactions	Archer	Set A – SK0180 Set B – SK0181
Liquid P5 MBC + P7 Adapter Kit, 96 reactions	Archer	Set A – SK0186 Set B – SK0187
AMPure® XP beads	Beckman Coulter	A63880
1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 (molecular biology grade)	Various	-
Ultrapure water (molecular biology grade)	Various	-
200 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.0 (for sequencing)	Various	-
100% ethanol (ACS grade)	Various	-
Concentrated NaOH solution (ACS grade)	Various	-
RNase AWAY™	Thermo Fisher Scientific	7003
KAPA Universal Library Quantification Kit	KAPA Biosystems	KK4824

<i>MiSeq® or NextSeq® Reagent Kit (300 cycle minimum)</i>	<i>Illumina</i>	-
<i>PhiX Control v3</i>	<i>Illumina</i>	<i>FC-110-3001</i>
<i>Standard PCR thermal cycler</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Real-Time PCR thermal cycler</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>qPCR tubes</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>0.2 mL PCR tubes or 96-well plates</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>DynaMag™ -96 Side Magnet</i>	<i>Thermo Fisher Scientific</i>	<i>12331D</i>
<i>Microcentrifuge</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Plate centrifuge</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Pipettes (P10, P20, P200 and P1000)</i>	<i>Pipetman or equivalent</i>	-
<i>Sterile, nuclease-free aerosol barrier pipette tips</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Vortex mixer</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>PCR tube cooling block</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Gloves</i>	<i>Various</i>	-
<i>Qubit® Fluorometer (3.0 or higher)</i>	<i>Thermo Fisher Scientific</i>	<i>Q33216</i>
<i>Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit</i>	<i>Thermo Fisher Scientific</i>	<i>Q32851</i>
<i>-20°C 1.5mL Tube Benchtop Cooler Box</i>	<i>Various</i>	-



## Before getting started

### Important precautions

- **Read through the entire protocol before starting your library preparation.**
- Take note of safe stopping points throughout the protocol where samples can be safely frozen (-30° C to -10° C) to plan your workflow.
- Use good laboratory practices to prevent contamination of samples by PCR products.
- Use nuclease-free PCR tubes, microcentrifuge tubes, and aerosol-barrier pipette tips.
- Wipe down workstation and pipettes with nuclease and nucleic acid cleaning products (e.g., RNase AWAY, Thermo Fisher Scientific).
- Verify that the thermal cycler used for library preparation is in good working order and currently calibrated according to manufacturer specifications. When using a thermal cycler with a 100% ramp rate >6°C/sec, set the ramp rate to go no higher than 6°C/sec for First PCR and Second PCR.
- Reaction cleanup with AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) is performed at room temperature (20°C to 25°C) and is used repeatedly throughout the workflow. Ensure that AMPure XP beads are equilibrated to room temperature and fully resuspended by vortexing until homogenous in both color and appearance prior to drawing out material for **each** use.
- If utilizing 96-well plates, make sure they are nuclease free, wells are of sufficient volume and plate seals are sufficient to prevent moisture loss.

### Working with liquid reagents

- VARIANT*Plex*-HT enzymes are sensitive to frequent temperature changes and potential freeze-thaw events.
- Enzymes will not freeze when stored at recommended storage temperature range but may freeze during shipment.
- For best results, it is recommended that you store the enzymes provided in a -20°C benchtop cooler box and use this to transport enzymes between workspaces and freezers.
- Enzyme components can undergo up to 5 freeze-thaw cycles without significant effect on functionality.
- Buffer mixes will freeze at recommended storage temperature and should be thawed on ice prior to use. For best results, buffer mixes should be aliquoted to appropriate batch sizes for single use with adequate overage, such that aliquots are not re-frozen after thawing.

- Buffer components can undergo up to 15 freeze-thaw cycles without significant effect on functionality.
- If using adapter plates which contain 24 reactions per well, it is recommended to aliquot into batch sizes for single use with adequate overage to avoid excessive freeze thaw cycles.
- Please reference Product Insert Liquid P5 MBC + P7 Adapter Kits for Illumina (RA-DOC-001) for more information on working with liquid adapters.
- If preparing reagents for a liquid handler protocol, we recommend a batch size that does not exceed 3 reagent withdrawals from the stock tubes to ensure enough overage is always present (e.g., 8 samples per run using a 24-reaction kit).

### Input nucleic acid

- Input nucleic acid (TNA, DNA) in EDTA-free buffer (pH 7-8) or ultrapure water is the optimal starting template for AMP library preparation. Do NOT use EDTA-containing buffers.
- Contact technical support ([archer-tech@idtdna.com](mailto:archer-tech@idtdna.com)) for commercially available extraction kit recommendations.
- Use the maximum allowable input mass (ng) whenever possible. Higher input quantities enable more sensitive variant detection:
  - 10 – 200 ng of DNA for VARIANT*Plex*-HT
- Archer PreSeq™ DNA QC assay is recommended for use prior to library preparation to indicate the quality of your sample and number of amplifiable genomes present. The PreSeq DNA QC score is tied to Archer Analysis QC and can indicate sample failure or estimated sensitivity for CNV and variant calling prior to beginning library preparation. If you are using PreSeq prior to library preparation, please refer to the PreSeq DNA QC assay protocol. The PreSeq DNA QC assay can be purchased as a separate kit (16 reactions, Part number: AK0067-16).

### Reagents to prepare before starting

- The volumes below shown need to be increased if you are preparing more than 24 libraries.
- Make at least **10 mL** fresh 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 from 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 and ultrapure water.
  - Mix **100 µL** 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 with **9,900 µL** ultrapure water.
  - 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 can be used for up to one week after mixing.
- Make at least **50 mL** fresh 70% ethanol from 100% ethanol and ultrapure water.
  - Add **35 mL** 100% ethanol to **15 mL** ultrapure water.
  - Tightly close the cap to minimize evaporation when not in use.
  - 70% ethanol is appropriate for use for up to one week after mixing.

- Make at least **1 mL** fresh 5 mM NaOH working stock from concentrated NaOH and ultrapure water.
  - If working from 1 M NaOH, add **5 µL** of 1 M NaOH to **995 µL** of ultrapure water to yield 5 mM final NaOH.
  - If working from 5 M, add **10 µL** of 5 M NaOH to **990 µL** of ultrapure water to yield 50 mM NaOH. Mix well and briefly spin down. Take **100 µL** of 50 mM NaOH and combine with **900 µL** of ultrapure water to yield 5 mM NaOH. Mix well and briefly spin down.

## Thermal cycler programs

- Preprogram your thermal cycler with these specific programs.
- Use the appropriate programs for the specific Archer assay.
- Verify programming before initiating runs.

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)
<b>DNA Fragmentation</b>	1	4	1
	2	30	4
	3	65	30
	4	4	Hold

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)
<b>Complete End Repair</b> (Heated lid off)	1	25	30
	2	4	Hold

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)
<b>Ligation Step 1</b>	1	37	15
	2	4	Hold

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)
<b>Ligation Step 2</b> (Heated lid off)	1	22	5
	2	4	Hold

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (min)
<b>Ligation Elution</b>	1	75	10
	2	4	Hold

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time	Cycles
<b>First PCR</b>	1	95	3 min	1
	2	95	30 sec	<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i>
	3	<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i>	10 sec	
	4		<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i> 100% ramp rate*	
	5	72	3 min	1
	6	4	Hold	1

\*See ramp rate guidelines in the “Before getting started” section.

	Step	Temperature (°C)	Time	Cycles
<b>Second PCR</b>	1	95	3 min	1
	2	95	30 sec	<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i>
	3	<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i>	10 sec	
	4		<i>Varies—See panel specific product insert)</i> 100% ramp rate*	
	5	72	3 min	1
	6	4	Hold	1

\*See ramp rate guidelines in the “Before getting started” section.

## Molecular barcoding, sample indexing, and multiplexed sequencing

Molecule-level barcoding (or unique molecule identifier tagging) and sample-level barcoding (also known as index tagging) are both incorporated during Archer MBC ligation. Molecular barcodes are an integral component of the Archer Analysis software suite. Sample barcodes (i.e., index tags) allow pooled libraries to be sequenced simultaneously thereby enabling maximum sequencing throughput and data demultiplexing during downstream bioinformatics analysis.

### Sample multiplexing

- To efficiently utilize the throughput of the MiSeq (or other Illumina sequencing platform) as well as prevent low index diversity within your sequencing run, multiple samples should be sequenced simultaneously. Samples can be identified through a combination of two unique nucleotide sequences (see below for more details), which are subsequently read during the sequencing process. The unique nucleotide sequence is often termed an “index”.
- The Archer Library Preparation Reagents for Illumina use a combination of two indices to distinguish between samples. Index 2 is added during Ligation Step 2 and is embedded in the Archer MBC adapters for Illumina (p5/i5 index) within the Liquid Adapter Plate. Index 1 is added during the Second PCR and is embedded in Illumina Index 1 Primers (p7/i7) within the Liquid P7 Index Plate.
- To maintain appropriate coverage depth, it is recommended that users determine the maximum number of samples that can be run on a flow cell. In general, larger panels with more targets will require higher sequencing coverage depth and should be run with fewer samples. Refer to product insert for panel specific read depth recommendations.

### Barcode diversity

- Illumina sequencers work best when index diversity within a run is high. For example, if eight samples are included in a run, and the user chooses to use only one MBC adapter paired with eight different Index 1 Primers, the run may fail due to low barcode diversity. In this example it is recommended to use eight different Archer MBC adapters paired with eight different Index 1 Primers.
- Each Liquid P5 MBC + P7 Adapter Kit contains a Liquid P5 MBC Adapter Plate and a Liquid P7 Index Plate each containing 96 unique indexes. When used together, these two plates can generate up to 96 unique dual indexed samples. For best results, use at least 6 sequential adapters per sequencing run. If less than 6 sequential adapters are used, the percent of phiX should be increased.

## Protocol

Before beginning, review precautions in “Working with Liquid Reagents” section for additional information regarding best practices for enzymes and buffers.

### Step 1: DNA Fragmentation

1. Thaw the **DNA Fragmentation Buffer Mix** on ice. Briefly vortex buffer mix, then spin down and return to ice. **Do not vortex the enzyme**, instead gently invert the tube 3-5 times and flick to mix, then spin down.
2. Adjust purified DNA samples to a final volume of **32 µL** and transfer to a new 0.2 mL 8-strip tube or plate wells. Keep samples on ice.

Component	Reaction Mix
Ultrapure water	32 - Xµl
Purified nucleic acid	Xµl
<i>Total volume</i>	32µl

3. On ice, make a **DNA Fragmentation Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 20% overage) using the table below.

DNA Fragmentation Master Mix	1X (µL)	___X (µL)
DNA Fragmentation Buffer Mix (SA0838 or SA0814)	3.2	
DNA Fragmentation Enzyme Mix (SA0839 or SA0815) <small>Do NOT vortex, invert 3-5x and flick tube before adding</small>	4.8	
<i>Total volume</i>	8	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
  - b. Keep master mix on ice.
4. To each **32 µL** input sample, add **8 µL** DNA Fragmentation Master Mix.
    - a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
    - b. Return tubes to ice.
  5. Start the following thermal cycler program, and only transfer reactions to the block once temperature reaches 4°C. Pause the program if necessary.
    - a. Use a heated lid (≥100°C).



**DNA Fragmentation incubation conditions**

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (minutes)
1	4	1
2	30	4
3	65	30
4	4	Hold

- b. After the program has reached 4°C, briefly spin down reactions and place on ice.

## Step 2: Complete End Repair

1. Thaw the **Complete End Repair Buffer Mix** on ice. Briefly vortex buffer mix and either vortex or pipette mix enzymes, then spin down.
2. On ice, make a **Complete End Repair Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 20% overage) using the table below.

Complete End Repair Master Mix	1X (µL)	___X (µL)
Complete End Repair Buffer Mix (SA0804 or SA0686)	8.86	
Complete End Repair Enzyme A (SA0805 or SA0680)	1	
Complete End Repair Enzyme B (SA0806 or SA0681)	0.14	
Total Volume	10	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
  - b. Keep master mix on ice.
3. To each **40 µL** DNA Fragmentation sample from Step 1: DNA Fragmentation, add **10 µL** of Complete End Repair Master Mix.
    - a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
    - b. Return tubes to ice.
  4. Transfer reactions to a preheated thermal cycler and initiate an incubation using the following program and guidelines:
    - a. Heated lid off. If the lid is still hot, consider using a different thermal cycler or leaving the lid open.



**Complete End Repair incubation conditions**

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (minutes)
1	25	30
2	4	Hold

- b. Place samples in the thermal cycler and start the program.
- c. When the run has completed, briefly spin down reactions and place on ice.

**Reaction Cleanup after Complete End Repair**

Refer to Important Precautions section for guidance on working with AMPure XP beads.

1. Completely resuspend AMPure XP beads by vortexing.
2. Remove tubes from ice and add **2.5X** volume (**125 µL**) of AMPure XP beads to each Complete End Repair reaction.
3. Vortex well or pipette 10 times to mix and visually inspect the color of the sample to ensure a homogenous mixture.
4. Incubate for **5 minutes** at room temperature (20°C to 25°C).
5. Briefly spin down tubes.
6. Place tubes on the magnet for **4 minutes or until beads are fully pelleted** against the tube wall.
7. Without disturbing the bead pellet, use a pipette to remove and discard the supernatant. If the pellet becomes dislodged from the magnet and a portion is drawn into the pipette tip, return contents to the tube and repeat magnet incubation step.
8. Wash beads **two times** with 70% ethanol while still on the magnet. For each wash:
  - a. Add **180 µL** 70% ethanol.
  - b. Incubate for **30 seconds** at room temperature (20°C to 25°C).
  - c. Carefully remove ethanol and discard.
9. After the final wash, use a pipette (≤20 µL capacity) to completely remove visible supernatant residue and allow tubes to dry for **3-5 minutes** at room temperature with open lids. **Take care not to over-dry beads** as this will significantly decrease overall recovery (yield) of nucleic acid.
10. Elute DNA by resuspending beads in **16 µL** 10mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0.



**\*Note that for automated workflows it is acceptable to add 1  $\mu$ L 10mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 to the bead resuspension volume shown above. This extra 1  $\mu$ L should be left behind when removing the purified DNA in upcoming steps.**

11. Place tubes back on the magnet for **2 minutes**.

## Step 3: Ligation Step 1

1. Thaw the **Ligation Step 1 Buffer Mix** on ice. Briefly vortex buffer mix and either vortex or pipette mix enzymes, then spin down.
2. On ice, make a **Ligation Step 1 Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 50% overage) using the table below.

Ligation Step 1 Master Mix	1X ( $\mu$ L)	___X ( $\mu$ L)
Ligation Step 1 Buffer Mix (SA0807 or SA0685)	3.7	
Ligation Step 1 Enzyme (SA0808 or SA0682)	0.3	
Total Volume	4	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
  - b. Keep master mix on ice.
3. Transfer **16  $\mu$ L** of eluted DNA from Step 2: Complete End Repair into new 0.2mL 8-strip tubes or plate wells. It is acceptable for a small amount of AMPure XP beads to be transferred.
  4. Add **4  $\mu$ L** of Ligation Step 1 Master Mix to each sample.
    - a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
    - b. Return tubes to ice.
  5. Transfer reactions to a preheated thermal cycler and initiate an incubation using the following program and guidelines:
    - a. Use a heated lid ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).



***Ligation Step 1 incubation conditions***

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (minutes)
1	37	15
2	4	Hold

- b. Place samples in the thermal cycler and start the program.
- c. After the program has reached 4°C, remove tubes from the temperature block, briefly spin down reactions and place on ice.

**Reaction Cleanup after Ligation Step 1**

**Refer to Important Precautions section for guidance on working with AMPure XP beads.**

1. Completely resuspend AMPure XP beads by vortexing.
2. Remove tubes from ice and add **2.5X** volume (**50 µL**) of AMPure XP beads to each Ligation Step 1 reaction.
3. Vortex well or pipette 10 times to mix and visually inspect the color of the sample to ensure even mixing.
4. Incubate for **5 minutes** at room temperature (20°C to 25°C).
5. Briefly spin down tubes.
6. Place tubes on the magnet for **4 minutes or until beads are fully pelleted** against the tube wall.
7. Without disturbing the bead pellet, use a pipette to remove and discard the supernatant. If the pellet becomes dislodged from the magnet and a portion is drawn into the pipette tip, return contents to the tube and repeat magnet incubation step.
8. Wash beads **two times** with 70% ethanol while still on the magnet. For each wash:
  - a. Add **180 µL** 70% ethanol.
  - b. Incubate for **30 seconds** at room temperature (20°C to 25°C).
  - c. Carefully remove ethanol and discard.
9. After the final wash, use a pipette (≤20 µL capacity) to completely remove visible supernatant residue and allow tubes to dry for **3-5 minutes** at room temperature with open lids. Take care not to over-dry beads as this will significantly decrease overall recovery (yield) of nucleic acid.
10. Elute DNA by resuspending beads in **25 µL** 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0.

- Place tubes back on the magnet for **2 minutes**.

## Step 4: MBC Adapter Incorporation

- Thaw **Liquid P5 MBC Adapter Plate(s)** (SA0691, SA0693, SA0800, or SA0802). Spin down before unsealing plate. It is acceptable to pierce the foil seal with a pipette tip to access the liquid adapters.

**\*Important\*** As this step incorporates the P5 index tag for sample-level tracking, be sure to record which MBC adapter is being used for each sample.

- Transfer **23 µL** of eluted DNA from the cleanup after Step 3: Ligation Step 1 above to new 0.2mL 8-strip tubes or plate wells. **Avoid pipetting AMPure XP beads into this reaction.**
- Add **2 µL** of respective unique **Liquid P5 MBC Adapter** for a total of **25 µL**. Re-seal adapter plate using a new seal after all P5 MBC adapters have been added to respective samples.
  - Mix by vortexing and spin down.
  - Return tubes to ice.
- Immediately proceed to Step 5: Ligation Step 2.

## Step 5: Ligation Step 2

- Thaw the **Ligation Step 2 Buffer Mix 2.0** on ice. Vortex buffer mix well and spin down. Either vortex or pipette mix enzymes then spin down.
- On ice, make a **Ligation Step 2 Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 20% overage) using the table below.

**Due to the viscosity of the Ligation Step 2 Buffer Mix 2.0 components, it is essential to slowly pipette mix the stock solution at least 10 times then vortex for 10 seconds BEFORE aliquoting the required volume for the working solution and again AFTER the addition of the Ligation Step 2 Enzyme.**

Ligation Step 2 Master Mix	1X (µL)	___X (µL)
Ligation Step 2 Buffer Mix 2.0 (SA0810 or SA0816)	24.6	
Ligation Step 2 Enzyme (SA0809 or SA0683)	0.4	
<i>Total volume</i>	25	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
- b. Keep master mix on ice.
3. Transfer **25 µL** of Ligation Step 2 Master Mix into each tube or well containing the **25 µL** of each sample (DNA + Liquid MBC Adapter) from Step 4: MBC Adapter Incorporation above.



- a. Mix well and spin down. **Due to the viscosity of these components, carefully pipette mixing 10 times in addition to vortexing is required to ensure complete mixing.**
- b. Return tubes to ice.
4. Transfer reactions to a preheated thermal cycler and initiate an incubation using the following program and guidelines:



- a. Heated lid off

***Ligation Step 2 incubation conditions***

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (minutes)
1	22	5
2	4	Hold

- b. After the program has reached 4°C, briefly spin down reactions and place on ice.



**Safe stopping point:** It is okay to stop and store the reactions at -30°C to -10°C.

### Reaction Cleanup after Ligation Step 2



**Caution:** This step uses Ligation Cleanup Beads (SA0655 or SA0689) and Ligation Cleanup Buffer (SA0656 or SA0690) instead of AMPure XP beads and 70% ethanol. Make sure to use Ligation Cleanup Beads and Ligation Cleanup Buffer that come with the kit for this step.

#### Prepare Ligation Cleanup Beads:

1. Completely resuspend **Ligation Cleanup Beads** by vortexing.
2. For each reaction, pipette **50 µL** of Ligation Cleanup Beads into new 0.2 mL 8-strip tubes.
3. Place tube(s) on the magnet for **1 minute or until the beads are pelleted**.
4. Without disturbing the bead pellet, use a pipette to remove and discard the supernatant. If the pellet becomes dislodged from the magnet and a portion is drawn into the pipette tip, return contents to the tube and repeat magnetic pelleting step.

- Pipette **50 µL of Ligation Cleanup Buffer** into each tube to resuspend beads.

#### Ligation Cleanup Procedure:



**Caution: When vortexing PCR tubes in the subsequent steps, maintain firm pressure on all lids as the contained detergent may allow lids to open.**

- Pipette the entire volume of Ligation Step 2 reaction into the tubes with Ligation Cleanup Beads and Buffer.
- Mix samples by vortexing.
- Incubate reactions at room temperature for **5 minutes**.
- Mix samples by vortexing.
- Incubate reactions at room temperature for **5 minutes**.
- Briefly spin down tubes.
- Place tubes on the magnet for **1 minute or until beads are fully pelleted** against the tube wall.
- Carefully pipette off and discard supernatant (**100 µL**) without disturbing the beads.
- Wash beads **two times** with **Ligation Cleanup Buffer**.
  - Resuspend beads in **180 µL** Ligation Cleanup Buffer by vortexing, briefly spinning down, and placing back on magnet for **1 minute**.
  - Once slurry has cleared, discard supernatant.
- Wash beads **once** with **ultrapure water**:
  - Resuspend beads in **180 µL** of ultrapure water by vortexing, briefly spinning down and placing back on magnet.
  - Once slurry has cleared, discard supernatant.
  - Take care to ensure that all supernatant has been removed from tubes.
- Elute DNA from Ligation Cleanup Beads:
  - Resuspend ligation cleanup beads in the amount of 5 mM NaOH specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (A)**.

**\*Note that for automated workflows it is acceptable to add 1 µL 5 mM NaOH to the ligation bead resuspension volume shown above. This extra 1 µL should be left behind when removing the purified DNA in upcoming steps.**



- b. Transfer reactions to a thermal cycler and initiate an incubation using the following program and guidelines:
- c. Use a heated lid ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

**Ligation Elution incubation conditions**

Step	Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Time (minutes)
1	75	10
2	4	Hold

- d. After sample has reached  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , briefly spin down and transfer to the magnet.

## Step 6: First PCR

1. Thaw the **First PCR Buffer Mix 2.0** and **GSP1** on ice. Briefly vortex and spin down buffer mix and primers. Either vortex or pipette mix enzymes then spin down.
2. On ice, make a **First PCR Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 20% overage) using the table below.

**\*Note that the PCR Enzyme will also be utilized in Second PCR so do not discard unused enzyme after making First PCR Master Mix.**

First PCR Master Mix	1X ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	___X ( $\mu\text{L}$ )
First PCR Buffer Mix 2.0 (SA0834 or SA0817)	11.2	
PCR Enzyme (SA0837 or SA0836)	0.8	
<i>Total volume</i>	12	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
  - b. Keep master mix on ice.
3. To new 0.2mL 8-strip tubes or plate wells add:
    - a. **12  $\mu\text{L}$**  First PCR Master Mix
    - b. GSP1 - Volume specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (B)**

**\*Note that for automated workflows, the GSPs for the panel(s) in use should be added to their own master mix instead of directly to the sample.**

- c. Entire volume of purified DNA from Step 5: Ligation 2 Cleanup.
4. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
5. Return tubes to ice.
6. Transfer reactions to a preheated thermal cycler and immediately initiate the program specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (First PCR Reaction)**.
  - a. Use a heated lid ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
  - b. After the program has reached  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , briefly spin down reactions and place on ice. It is also acceptable to leave tubes in the thermal cycler at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight.



### Reaction Cleanup after First PCR

Refer to Important Precautions section for guidance on working with AMPure XP beads.

1. Completely resuspend AMPure XP beads by vortexing.
2. Add **0.8X** volume (**32  $\mu\text{L}$** ) of AMPure XP beads to each reaction.
3. Vortex well or pipette 10 times to mix and visually inspect the color of the sample to ensure a homogenous mixture.
4. Incubate for **5 minutes** at room temperature ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
5. Briefly spin down tubes.
6. Place tubes on the magnet for **4 minutes or until beads are fully pelleted** against the tube wall.
7. Without disturbing the bead pellet, use a pipette to remove and discard the supernatant. If the pellet becomes dislodged from the magnet and a portion is drawn into the pipette tip, return contents to the tube and repeat magnet incubation step.
8. Wash beads **two times** with 70% ethanol while still on the magnet. For each wash:
  - a. Add **180  $\mu\text{L}$**  70% ethanol
  - b. Incubate for **30 seconds** at room temperature ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - c. Carefully remove ethanol and discard
9. After the final wash, use a pipette ( $\leq 20 \mu\text{L}$  capacity) to completely remove visible supernatant residue and allow tubes to dry for **3-5 minutes** at room temperature with open lids. **Take care not to over-dry beads** as this will significantly decrease overall recovery (yield) of nucleic acid.

10. Elute DNA by resuspending beads in the volume of 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (C)**.
11. Place tubes back on the magnet for **2 minutes**.
12. Transfer the volume of purified eluate specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (D)** to a new 0.2mL PCR tube and store reactions as indicated below or proceed directly to Step 7: Second PCR.



**Safe stopping point:** It is okay to stop and store the reactions at -30°C to -10°C

## Step 7: Second PCR

1. Thaw the **Second PCR Buffer Mix 2.0, GSP2**, and **Liquid P7 Index Plate(s)** (SA0692, SA0694, SA0801, or SA0803) on ice. Vortex buffer and GSP2 then spin down. Spin down P7 plate before unsealing. It is acceptable to pierce the foil seal with a pipette tip to access the liquid adapters.
2. On ice, make a **Second PCR Master Mix** working solution based on the desired number of reactions (including but not exceeding 20% overage) using the table below.

Second PCR Master Mix	1X (μL)	___X (μL)
Second PCR Buffer Mix 2.0 (SA0835 or SA0822)	11.2	
PCR Enzyme (SA0837 or SA0836)	0.8	
<i>Total volume</i>	12	

- a. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
- b. Keep master mix on ice.
3. To new 0.2mL 8-strip tubes or plate wells add:
  - a. **12 μL** Second PCR Master Mix
  - b. **4 μL** respective Liquid P7 Index according to sample index planning. Re-seal P7 plate using a new seal after adding P7 index to respective wells.
  - c. GSP2 - Volume specified in panel specific **Product Insert (E)**.

**\*Note that for automated workflows, the GSPs for the panel(s) in use should be added to their own master mix instead of directly to the sample.**



- d. Transfer volume of purified DNA from Step 6: First PCR specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (D)**.

**\*Important\*** As this step incorporates the P7 index tag for sample-level tracking, be sure to record which Liquid P7 Index is being used for each sample.

4. Mix by briefly vortexing and spin down.
5. Return tubes to ice.
6. Transfer reactions to a preheated thermal cycler and immediately initiate the program specified in the panel specific **Product Insert (Second PCR Reaction)**.
  - a. Use a heated lid ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
  - b. After the program has reached  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , briefly spin down reactions and place on ice. It is also acceptable to leave tubes in the thermal cycler at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight.



## Reaction Cleanup after Second PCR

Refer to **Important Precautions** section for guidance on working with AMPure XP beads.

1. Completely resuspend AMPure XP beads by vortexing.
2. Add **0.8X** volume (**32  $\mu\text{L}$** ) of AMPure XP beads to each Second PCR reaction.
3. Vortex well or pipette 10 times to mix and visually inspect the color of the sample to ensure a homogenous mixture.
4. Incubate for **5 minutes** at room temperature ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
5. Briefly spin down tubes.
6. Place tubes on the magnet for **4 minutes or until beads are fully pelleted** against the tube wall.
7. Without disturbing the bead pellet, use a pipette to remove and discard the supernatant. If the pellet becomes dislodged from the magnet and a portion is drawn into the pipette tip, return contents to the tube and repeat magnet incubation step.
8. Wash beads **two times** with 70% ethanol while still on the magnet. For each wash:
  - a. Add **180  $\mu\text{L}$**  70% ethanol.
  - b. Incubate for **30 seconds** at room temperature ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
  - c. Carefully remove ethanol and discard.

9. After the final wash, use a pipette ( $\leq 20 \mu\text{L}$  capacity) to completely remove visible supernatant residue and allow tubes to dry for **3-5 minutes** at room temperature with open lids. **Take care not to over-dry beads** as this will significantly decrease overall recovery (yield) of nucleic acid.
10. Elute DNA by resuspending beads in **20  $\mu\text{L}$**  10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0.
11. Place tubes back on the magnet for **2 minutes**.
12. Transfer **18  $\mu\text{L}$**  of the purified solution to a new 0.2mL PCR tube. Be sure to avoid transferring beads to the fresh tube.
13. Stop or proceed directly to Quantify, Normalize and Sequence.



**Safe stopping point:** It is okay to stop and store the reactions at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

## Quantify, Normalize, and Sequence

Refer to the Quantify, Normalize, and sequence Protocol for Illumina (RA-DOC-054) for information on quantifying, normalizing and sequencing Archer AMP libraries.

## Data analysis

Archer AMP libraries should be demultiplexed to FASTQs prior to analysis. Analyze data with Archer Analysis v7 or higher using either a local software installation or Archer Unlimited. Reference Product Insert Liquid P5 MBC P7 Adapter Kits for Illumina (RA-DOC-001) for additional information on Archer Analysis step up. Visit our website or contact [archer-tech@idtdna.com](mailto:archer-tech@idtdna.com) for more information.

VARIANT*Plex* assays require a one-time upload of a GTF file (a text file, in GTF format, which directs the software on how to analyze data from the panel). Additionally, if the SNV/indel pipeline is chosen, there is an option to select a targeted mutation file (a text file, in VCF format, which lists specific variants of interest). This file also requires a one-time upload. Both files can be obtained by contacting [archer-tech@idtdna.com](mailto:archer-tech@idtdna.com).

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