

How to send cut gel bands

If you have gels from which you would like individual bands to be identified by MS, you have two options:

1. You can send (or bring) the gel to the facility and we cut out the band(s) that you indicate.
2. Alternatively, you can cut out gel bands yourself. In this case, please take appropriate precautions to minimize contamination (e.g., keratins) by carefully following the guidelines below.

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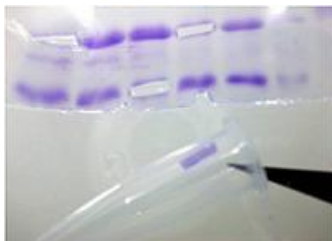
EMBL Heidelberg
Meyerhofstrasse 1
69117 Heidelberg
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www.embl.org

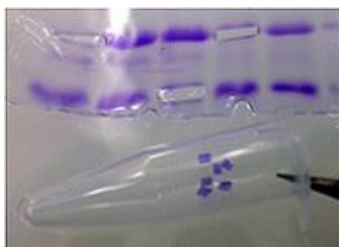
https://www.embl.de/proteomics/proteomics_services/index.html

Guidelines for cutting out gel bands

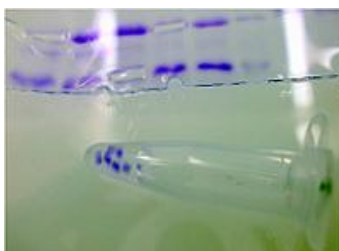
- Always wear clean gloves
- **Only** cut gels on a clean glass plate (**never** use overhead projector foils as they can introduce polymers that inhibit protease activity!)
- Use a **new** clean scalpel blade for precise cutting
- Clean glass plate and scalpel with 70% ethanol and lint-free towels (like from Kimberly-Clark Kimtech Science)



- **Precisely** cut out **only** the band — any excess gel will lead to background noise
- **Note:** Keep the gel moist while cutting



- Chop the gel band into approx. 1 x 1 mm squares
- Please don't cut them too small, else we might lose them during processing



- Place the gel cubes in a clean Eppendorf tube (0.5 mL) and add 0.1% acetic acid and/or 0.02 % sodium azide to keep them moist during shipment

- Alternatively, you can also freeze gel bands without liquid at -20°C for long term storage
- Please label the Eppendorf Tubes with **your initials and consecutive numbers**.
- Check that the lid is shut and place the tubes in any hard-shell plastic container (e.g. falcon) to avoid leakage during shipping before placing in an envelope to send
- You can send them without cool packs or dry ice on room temperature
- **Don't forget** to include your service request form in the package **including a gel image** where you indicated the bands of interest, labeled with the numbers that correspond to the number on the Eppendorf tube