

August 2008

Malcolm:

Please find enclosed your 75 *E. coli* microarray slides (Operon version 1.0) in 3 boxes of 25 slides each. As well I have enclosed 1 copies of the Epoxide slide handbook from Corning, 1 copy of the CD containing the slide map for these slides and the quality control images that go with it and some pens. If you need more copies of the CD, let me know and I will ship them down. Please NOTE that the slide map has changed slightly as earlier this year we were advised by Operon that the control spots in the source plates were not where they should be. The spots are all still there; it is just that the ID's of particular control spots has changed. Please use the new .gal file for all the slides we have sent you as this is the correct map for what is actually on the slides.

When you receive the slides, store them in a desiccator to protect them from moisture to increase their shelf life. They have been shipped to you under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>(g) in the presence of desiccant and oxygen absorbing packs to maintain a dry, oxygen free environment. Once opened, please store them as described above to maximize their shelf life. These slides are ready to use and do not need cross-linking or baking, however, we do strongly recommend that you follow the pre-hybridization protocol out-lined in the Corning Epoxide Slide Manual that I have included in the shipping box (and is also on the CD). The procedure helps reduce background on the slides and we find it very effective.

The slides contain spots organized into 48 subarrays (3x16 subarrays), each of which contains 21 x 21 spots. The spots are 200 um apart in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions. Each spot in the oligo set is represented three times, once in each of the group of 16 subarrays. With the slide oriented so that the bar code in on the right and slide is in a horizontal position, the subarray in the upper right hand corner is subarray or block #1. This also described in the application note found on the enclosed CD.

On the CD you will find the slide maps (in a folder called output files) and the QC images that we took. The Bluescan images are scans of 7 slides from the print run which were scanned after printing with blue light showing the DNA-salt spots auto-fluorescing. NOTHING was done to these slides to get these images and as such these pictures represent the condition of the slides right after printing.

Normally we also conduct 2 other tests as part of our QC, but presently we have been having problems getting these kits from Invitrogen and have now been informed that they have been discontinued. We are still in the process of evaluating replacements; hence, I have sent you the slides WITHOUT have carried out these tests. However, between the blue scans and they use of the slides by other end users I am confident that the quality of the slides is as high usual. Once our test are done, if I see any issues I will be in touch.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any of the numbers or email below.

Thanks-Tony



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