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# Qproteome Cell Compartment Handbook

For the subcellular fractionation of proteomic  
samples



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## Kit Contents

<b>Qproteome Cell Compartment Kit</b>	
<b>Catalog no.</b>	<b>37502</b>
<b>Number of preps</b>	<b>10</b>
Extraction Buffer CE1	1 x 10 ml
Extraction Buffer CE2	1 x 10 ml
Extraction Buffer CE3	1 x 5 ml
Extraction Buffer CE4	1 x 5 ml
Benzonase®	1 x 80 µl
Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x)	1 x 300 µl

## Storage

Benzonase and Extraction Buffers CE1, CE2, and CE3 should be stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) should be stored at  $2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Extraction Buffer CE4 should be stored at room temperature ( $15-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

## Safety Information

When working with chemicals, always wear a suitable lab coat, disposable gloves, and protective goggles. For more information, please consult the appropriate material safety data sheets (MSDSs). These are available online in convenient and compact PDF format at [www.qiagen.com/ts/msds.asp](http://www.qiagen.com/ts/msds.asp) where you can find, view, and print the MSDS for each QIAGEN kit and kit component.

### 24-hour emergency information

Emergency medical information in English, French, and German can be obtained 24 hours a day from:

Poison Information Center Mainz, Germany

Tel: +49-6131-19240

## **Product Use Limitations**

Qproteome Kits are developed, designed, and sold for research purposes only. They are not to be used for human diagnostic or drug purposes or to be administered to humans unless expressly cleared for that purpose by the Food and Drug Administration in the USA or the appropriate regulatory authorities in the country of use. All due care and attention should be exercised in the handling of many of the materials described in this text.

## **Product Warranty and Satisfaction Guarantee**

QIAGEN guarantees the performance of all products in the manner described in our product literature. The purchaser must determine the suitability of the product for its particular use. Should any product fail to perform satisfactorily due to any reason other than misuse, QIAGEN will replace it free of charge or refund the purchase price. We reserve the right to change, alter, or modify any product to enhance its performance and design. If a QIAGEN product does not meet your expectations, simply call your local Technical Service Department or distributor. We will credit your account or exchange the product — as you wish.

A copy of QIAGEN terms and conditions can be obtained on request, and is also provided on the back of our invoices. If you have questions about product specifications or performance, please call QIAGEN Technical Services or your local distributor (see inside back cover).

## **Technical Assistance**

At QIAGEN we pride ourselves on the quality and availability of our technical support. Our Technical Service Departments are staffed by experienced scientists with extensive practical and theoretical expertise in molecular biology and the use of QIAGEN® products. If you have any questions or experience any difficulties regarding Qproteome Kits or QIAGEN products in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

QIAGEN customers are a major source of information regarding advanced or specialized uses of our products. This information is helpful to other scientists as well as to the researchers at QIAGEN. We therefore encourage you to contact us if you have any suggestions about product performance or new applications and techniques.

For technical assistance and more information please call one of the QIAGEN Technical Service Departments or local distributors (see inside back cover).

## Cell Compartment Kit Fractionation Procedure

Cell pellet (approx.  
 $5 \times 10^6$  cells)

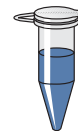


Add Extraction  
Buffer CE1



Fraction 1  
Cytosolic proteins

Add Extraction  
Buffer CE2



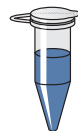
Fraction 2  
Membrane proteins

Add Benzonase and  
Extraction Buffer CE3



Fraction 3  
Nuclear proteins

Add Extraction  
Buffer CE4



Fraction 4  
Cytoskeletal proteins

## Introduction

Eukaryotic cells are complex, well-ordered, and highly structured systems. The Cell Compartment Kit is designed for fast and easy subcellular fractionation of intact eukaryotic cells. By sequential addition of different extraction buffers to a cell pellet, proteins in the different cellular compartments can be selectively isolated (see Table 1, Figure 1).

### Principle and procedure

Extraction Buffer CE1 is added to cells and selectively disrupts the plasma membrane without solubilizing it, resulting in the isolation of cytosolic proteins. Plasma membranes and compartmentalized organelles, such as nuclei, mitochondria, and the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), remain intact and are pelleted by centrifugation.

The pellet from the first step is resuspended in Extraction Buffer CE2, which solubilizes the plasma membrane as well as all organelle membranes except the nuclear membrane. After solubilization, the sample is centrifuged. The supernatant contains membrane proteins and proteins from the lumen of organelles (e.g., the ER and mitochondria). The pellet consists of nuclei.

In the next step nuclei are solubilized using Extraction Buffer CE3 in which all soluble and most membrane-bound nuclear proteins are extracted. Addition of Benzonase<sup>®</sup> allows the release of proteins tightly bound to nucleic acids (e.g., histones).

After another centrifugation, Extraction Buffer CE4 is used to solubilizes all residual — mainly cytoskeletal — proteins in the pellet.

Fractions 1 to 3 contain proteins in their native state. Extraction Buffer CE4 is strongly denaturing and not compatible with isoelectric focusing. Proteins in all fractions must be desalted (e.g., by acetone precipitation, see page 12) before further analysis using isoelectric focusing.

Starting material for one fractionation procedure is  $5 \times 10^6$  cells. The procedure has been used successfully for several different mammalian cell lines including HeLa, Jurkat, NIH-3T3, HEK293, and Cos. Table 2 gives an overview of expected protein yields using different cell lines.

Subcellular fractionation of proteins enables:

- Enrichment of low-abundance species
- Definition of the subcellular localization of enzymes, regulatory, and structural proteins
- Monitoring of compartmental redistribution of biomolecules under basal and stimulated conditions

**Table 1. Subcellular Protein Fractionation from Cellular Components**

<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Used to isolate proteins from:</b>
Extraction Buffer CE1	Cytosol
Extraction Buffer CE2	Membranes
Extraction Buffer CE3	Nucleus
Extraction Buffer CE4	Cytoskeleton

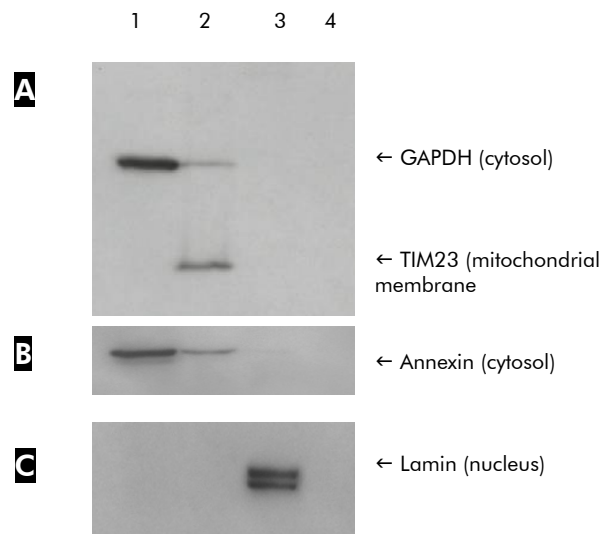
**Table 2. Typical Protein Yields in Cytosolic, Membrane, Nuclear, and Cytoskeletal Fractions\***

<b>Cell line</b>	<b>Cytosol</b>	<b>Membranes</b>	<b>Nucleus</b>	<b>Cytoskeleton</b>
HeLa	490 $\mu$ g	290 $\mu$ g	160 $\mu$ g	4 $\mu$ g
Jurkat	380 $\mu$ g	120 $\mu$ g	110 $\mu$ g	18 $\mu$ g
NIH-3T3	430 $\mu$ g	270 $\mu$ g	150 $\mu$ g	6 $\mu$ g
Cos	450 $\mu$ g	210 $\mu$ g	130 $\mu$ g	40 $\mu$ g

\* The yields in this table are mean values from 4 independent preparations of  $5 \times 10^6$  cells. The % CV ranged between 5 and 26% for the first 3 fractions.

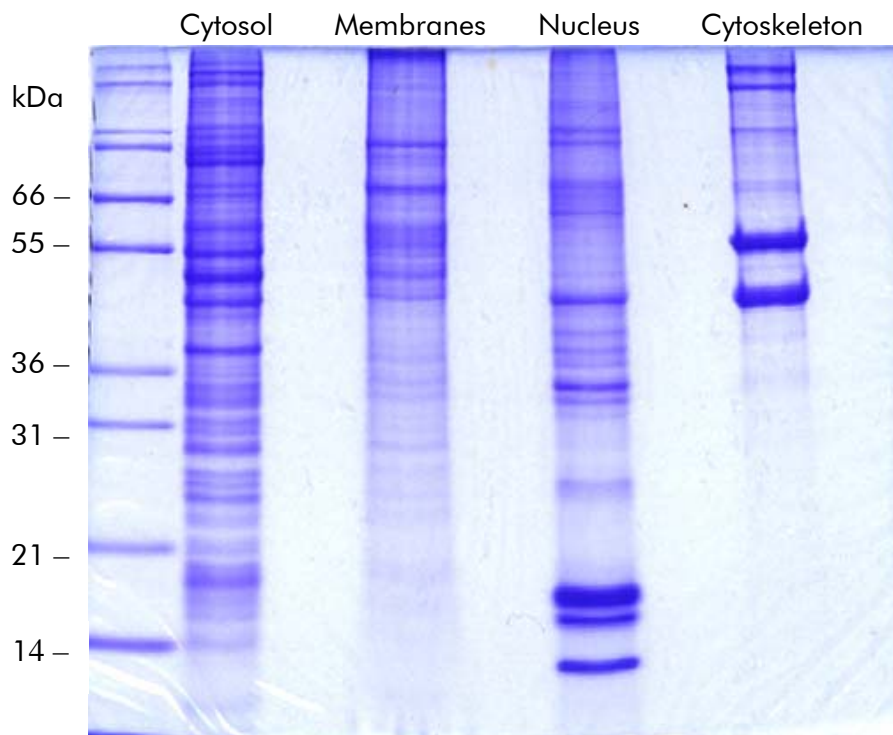


## Subcellular Fractionation of NIH-3T3 Cells



**Figure 1** Western blots of fractionated NIH-3T3 cells. Protein from fractions 1–4 (20  $\mu$ g) was separated by SDS-PAGE. After western blotting, proteins specific to each fraction were detected using **A** GAPDH and TIM23, **B** annexin, and **C** lamin antibodies, and an HRP-conjugated secondary antibody with chemiluminescent detection.

## Separation of Subcellular Fractions



**Figure 2** Coomassie<sup>®</sup>-stained gel showing fractionation of NIH-3T3 cells using the Qproteome Cell Compartment Kit.

## Protocol: Subcellular Fractionation Using the Cell Compartment Kit

This protocol is suitable for processing of  $5 \times 10^6$  cells. **Note:** The extraction buffers contain components that may interfere with protein quantification assays. A precipitation step (e.g., using acetone, see page 12) to remove interfering substances is required to accurately determine protein concentrations.

To be supplied by user

- Ice-cold PBS (50 mM  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.2)
- Distilled water
- End-over-end shaker
- Optional: acetone stored at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$

### Procedure

1. **Thaw Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) and Extraction Buffers CE1, CE2, and CE3. After thawing, mix well by vortexing and place on ice. For each fractionation procedure, prepare the volume of buffer supplemented with Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) given in the table below.**

### Volume of Buffer Required per Fractionation Procedure

	Buffer CE1	Buffer CE2	Buffer CE3	Buffer CE4
Required volume	1 ml	1 ml	0.5 ml	0.5 ml
Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x)	10 $\mu\text{l}$	10 $\mu\text{l}$	5 $\mu\text{l}$	–

2. **Transfer a cell suspension containing  $5 \times 10^6$  cells into a 15 ml conical tube and centrifuge at  $500 \times g$  for 10 min at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Remove the supernatant carefully and discard it.**
3. **Resuspend the cell pellet in 2 ml ice-cold PBS by pipetting up and down with a 1 ml pipette tip and transfer the cell suspension into a microcentrifuge tube. Pellet cells by centrifuging at  $500 \times g$  for 10 min at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Remove the supernatant carefully and discard it.**
4. **Repeat step 3.**

- 5. Resuspend the cell pellet in 1 ml ice-cold Extraction Buffer CE1 by pipetting up and down using a 1 ml pipette tip. Incubate for 10 min at 4°C on an end-over-end shaker.**

Ensure that Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) has been added to Extraction Buffer CE1.

- 6. Centrifuge the lysate at 1000 x g for 10 min at 4°C.**
- 7. Carefully transfer the supernatant (fraction 1) into a fresh microcentrifuge tube. Store on ice.**

This fraction primarily contains cytosolic proteins.

- 8. Resuspend the pellet in 1ml ice-cold Extraction Buffer CE2 by pipetting up and down using a 1ml pipette tip. Incubate for 30 min at 4°C on an end-over-end shaker.**

Ensure that Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) has been added to Extraction Buffer CE2.

- 9. Centrifuge the suspension at 6000 x g for 10 min at 4°C.**
- 10. Carefully transfer the supernatant (fraction 2) into a fresh microcentrifuge tube. Store on ice.**

This fraction primarily contains membrane proteins.

- 11. Add 7  $\mu$ l Benzonase<sup>®</sup> and 13  $\mu$ l distilled water to the pellet. Resuspend the pellet by gently flicking the bottom of the tube. Incubate for 15 min at room temperature (15–25°C).**

- 12. Pipet 500  $\mu$ l ice-cold Extraction Buffer CE3 into the tube and pipet up and down using a 1ml pipette tip. Incubate for 10 min at 4°C on an end-over-end shaker.**

Ensure that Protease Inhibitor Solution (100x) has been added to Extraction Buffer CE3.

- 13. Pellet insoluble material by centrifuging at 6800 x g for 10 min at 4°C.**

- 14. Transfer the supernatant (fraction 3) into a fresh sample tube. Store on ice.**

This fraction primarily contains nuclear proteins.

- 15. Resuspend the pellet from step 13 in 500  $\mu$ l Extraction Buffer CE4. Label the suspension fraction 4.**

This fraction primarily contains cytoskeletal proteins.

## **Protocol: Acetone Precipitation of Protein Fractions**

This protocol is suitable for concentrating and desalting protein samples for downstream applications such as 2D-PAGE.

- 1. Add four volumes of ice-cold acetone to the protein fraction and incubate for 15 min on ice.**
- 2. Centrifuge for 10 min at 12,000 x g in a pre-cooled microcentrifuge at 4°C. Discard the supernatant and air dry the pellet.**

Do not overdry the pellet as this may make it difficult to resuspend.

- 3. Depending on the application, resuspend the pellet in the required sample buffer.**

# Troubleshooting Guide

This troubleshooting guide may be helpful in solving any problems that may arise. The scientists in QIAGEN Technical Services are always happy to answer any questions you may have about either the information and protocol in this handbook or molecular biology applications (see back page for contact information).

	<b>Comments and Suggestions</b>
Inconsistent results in protein quantification assays	The extraction buffers contain components that may interfere with protein quantification assays. A precipitation step (e.g., using acetone, see page 12) to remove interfering substances is required to accurately determine protein concentrations.
Marker proteins do not appear in expected fraction/appear in different fraction	<p>The amount of cells processed was too high. The protocol is suitable for processing of <math>5 \times 10^6</math> cells.</p> <p>Marker protein may shuffle between compartments, for example, upon apoptotic stimulus cytochrome c can be transported from mitochondria (fraction 2) to the cytosol (fraction 1).</p>
A precipitate forms when storing Extraction Buffer CE4 on ice.	The precipitate can be redissolved by heating the buffer to 37°C with agitation and cooling to room temperature.
Protease Inhibitor does not thaw at room temperature	Heat the protease inhibitor solution to 37°C with agitation and cool to room temperature.

## Ordering Information

Product	Contents	Cat. no.
Qproteome Cell Compartment Kit	For 10 subcellular fractionations: Extraction buffers, Protease Inhibitor Solution, Benzonase®	37502
<b>Related products</b>		
Qproteome Total Glycoprotein Kit	For 6 total glycoprotein preps: Buffers, Lectin Spin Columns (6), Detergent Solution, Protease Inhibitor Solution, Collection Tubes (6 x 2 ml)	37541
Qproteome Mannose Glycoprotein Kit	For 6 mannose glycoprotein preps: ConA, GNA, and LCH Lectin Spin Columns (2 each); Buffers; Detergent Solution; Protease Inhibitor Solution; Collection Tubes (6 x 2 ml)	37551
Qproteome Sialic Glycoprotein Kit	For 6 sialic acid glycoprotein preps: WGA, SNA, and MAL Lectin Spin Columns (2 each); Buffers; Detergent Solution; Protease Inhibitor Solution; Collection Tubes (6 x 2 ml)	37561
Qproteome O-Glycan Glycoprotein Kit	For 6 O-glycan glycoprotein preps: ALL and PNA Lectin Spin Columns (3 each); Buffers; Protease Inhibitor Solution; Collection Tubes (6 x 2 ml)	37571
Qproteome Albumin/IgG Depletion Kit	For albumin/IgG depletion of 6 serum or plasma samples: Albumin/IgG Depletion Spin Columns (6)	37521
Qproteome Soluble Protein Separation Kit	For 10 soluble protein fractionations: Fractionation Buffer, Precipitation Reagents, Protease Inhibitor Solution, Benzonase®	37512
Qproteome Nuclear Subfractionation Kit	For 6 nuclear protein preparations: Buffers, Reagents, Nuclear protein Fractionation Columns (6), Nuclear Protein Fractionation Resin, Protease Inhibitor Solution, Benzonase®	37531

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