



When designing primers we recommend using primer-design software such as Primer3 (<http://frodo.wi.mit.edu/primer3>) or visual OMP™ (<http://dnasoftware.com>) with monovalent and divalent cation concentrations of 10mM and 3mM respectively. Primers should have a melting temperature (T<sub>m</sub>) of approximately 60°C.

**Annealing temperature and time:** The optimal annealing temperature is dependent upon the primer sequences and is usually 2 - 5°C below the lower T<sub>m</sub> of the pair. We recommend starting with a 55°C annealing temperature and, if necessary, running a temperature gradient to determine the optimal annealing temperature.

**Extension temperature and time:** The extension step should be performed at 72°C. The extension time is dependent on the length of the amplicon. An extension time of 20 seconds is sufficient for amplicons under 1kb. For amplification of fragments over 1kb, we suggest increasing the extension time up to 30s/kb.

## Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Possible Cause	Recommendation
<b>No PCR product</b>	Too much extract in PCR	- Use less tissue sample or cut tissue into smaller pieces. - Use less extract in the PCR, the extract should not be greater than 10% v/v of the total PCR volume. Extracts can be diluted further in water prior to PCR
	Inadequate denaturation	- Ensure that tissue extracts are incubated at 95°C for at least 10 minutes to deactivate extraction mix
	Extraction time too short	- Incubate tissue in extraction mix for up to 10 minutes at 75°C
	Missing component in PCR	- Check PCR set-up and volumes used
	Defective component in PCR	- Check the integrity and the concentrations of all components as well as the storage conditions. If necessary test each component individually in controlled reactions
	PCR cycling conditions not optimal	- Decrease the annealing temperature - Run a temperature gradient to determine the optimal annealing temperature - Increase the extension time, especially if amplifying a long target - Increase the number of cycles
	Difficult template	- Increase the denaturation time
<b>Smearing or Non-Specific products</b>	Excessive cycling	- Decrease the number of cycles
	Extension time too long	- Decrease the extension time
	Annealing temperature too low	- Increase the annealing temperature
	Primer concentration too high	- Decrease primer concentration
	Contamination	- Replace each component in order to find the possible source of contamination - Set up the PCR and analyze the PCR product in separate areas

## Technical Support

If the troubleshooting guide does not solve the problem you are experiencing, please contact your local distributor or our Technical Support with details of reaction set-up, cycling conditions and relevant information.

Email: [tech@bioline.com](mailto:tech@bioline.com)

## Associated Products

Product Name	Pack Size	Cat No
Agarose	500g	BIO-41025
Agarose tablets	300g	BIO-41027
HyperLadder™ 1kb	200 Lanes	BIO-33025

## TRADEMARK AND LICENSING INFORMATION

- 1). Notice to Purchaser: Licensed under U.S. patent numbers 5,338,671 and 5,587,287 and corresponding patents in other countries
- 2). HyperLadder and MyTaq are trademarks of Bioline Reagents Ltd.

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