



MicrowaveBlue™

Checklist:

- place gel in 200 ml d.i. water
- microwave gel in water for 3 minutes
- shake for 5 minutes (10 min)
- place gel in 25-50 ml of *MicrowaveBlue* solution
- microwave 45-90 sec (until solution boils)
- shake for 5 minutes (10 min)
- place gel in 50 ml d.i. water or MWB-Final-Touch

Times given in this table are for 1.0 mm minigels.
The times in brackets are for 1.5 mm minigels.

WARNING: *Unlike Coomassie stain, your gel needs to be washed with d.i. water before MicrowaveBlue is applied. MicrowaveBlue will not efficiently stain the protein bands without the water wash!*

Materials required

- MicrowaveBlue solution
- Distilled or deionized water
- Microwavable plastic tray

Equipment required:

- Microwave oven
- Orbital shaker or rocker

Procedure:

1. Upon completion of electrophoresis, place the polyacrylamide gel immediately into a microwavable plastic tray with **200 ml** d.i. water. The gel must be completely submerged in the water, and it should not stick to the bottom.
2. Microwave gel in water for **3 minutes**.
3. Incubate gel in water on a rocker for an additional **5 minutes** (10 minutes for 1.5 mm minigels).
4. Discard the water and add sufficient amount of *MicrowaveBlue* to cover the gel (25 - 50 ml for standard mini gel).
5. Microwave the gel for 45 to 90 seconds in *MicrowaveBlue* until *MicrowaveBlue* starts boiling. **Warning:** *Make sure your gel is completely covered with MicrowaveBlue – the microwaves might damage portions of the gel that are not covered.*
6. Incubate the gel in *MicrowaveBlue* for an additional 5 minutes with rocking (proteins bands will start to appear after a few seconds!!!). Use 10 minutes for 1.5 mm minigels.
7. Discard *MicrowaveBlue* and immerse the stained gel into 50 ml d.i. water or MWB-Final-Touch. Glass clear background and darker color of the protein bands will develop when the gel is kept in MWB-Final-Touch. For faster results, you may microwave the gel in MWB-Final-Touch for 1 minute. The gel can be kept in water or MWB-Final-Touch for several weeks. **Warning:** *Do not use acetic acid to store gels for it will destain your protein bands!*