User Manual

Version 1.0 – UMFN4311

Evercode™ Nuclei Fixation JP v4

Mid-Throughput Workflow

For use with

ECFN4311

ECFN4511

Support Suite

Legal Notices

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Overview

Workflow

From a single nuclei suspension, the Evercode Nuclei Fixation JP v4 kit generates fixed and permeabilized nuclei ready for use in the Evercode kits.

This mid-throughput plate-based workflow enables more samples to be fixed in parallel, streamlining fixation when processing >12 samples at a time.

The mid-throughput plate-based workflow is compatible with both the 12 and 96 Reactions Nuclei Fixation kits.

Fixation maintains nuclei structure, prevents RNA degradation, and locks the RNA inside the nucleus, which are crucial for downstream processing with Evercode split-pool combinatorial barcoding technology (Figure 1).

Because fixed samples are also stable for up to 6 months at -80°C, Evercode Nuclei Fixation JP v4 provides flexibility by separating sample collection from library preparation. It also enables samples to be stored and batched after fixation so they can be processed through library preparation together, reducing the potential of batch effects.

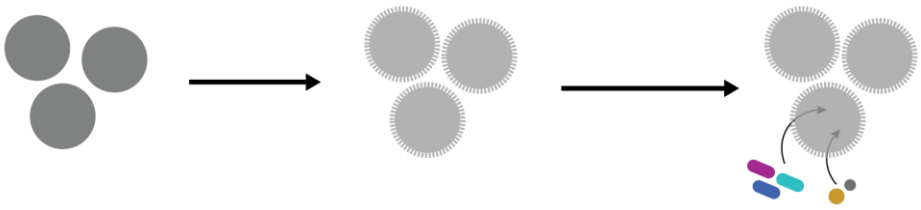

Figure 1: Evercode Nuclei Fixation JP v4. Nuclei in suspension are fixed and permeabilized before undergoing the split-pool combinatorial barcoding steps.

The figure below provides an overview of the fixation workflow. Between 100,000 and 1 million nuclei can be fixed in a single reaction. Note that more than 100,000 nuclei may need to be fixed to fully utilize the capacity of the downstream Evercode kits. See Important Guidelines for additional details.

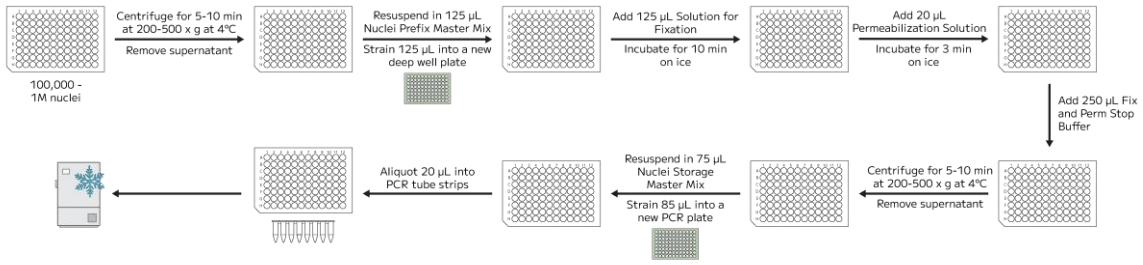

Figure 2: Mid-Throughput Plate-Based Fixation Evercode Nuclei Fixation JP v4 Workflow

Protocol Timing

The table below provides details of the total and hands-on time required for the nuclei fixation workflow.

SECTION	TOTAL TIME	HANDS-ON TIME	STOPPING POINTS
Section 1: Set Up			
1.1 Block plates with BSA	65 min	5 min	4°C ≤ 1 month
1.2 Prepare Master Mixes	15 min	15 min	
Section 2: Fixation			
2.1 Nuclei Fixation	60 min	60 min	-80°C ≤ 6 months

Important Guidelines

These guidelines provide additional information to obtain optimal performance beyond the detailed instructions in the protocol. For additional questions not discussed below, please contact us at support@parsebiosciences.com. We also have a library of additional resources and videos on our support site at https://support.parsebiosciences.com/.

Sample Input

- This protocol begins with a previously prepared single nuclei suspension. We recommend suspensions with <5% aggregation/debris.
- If nuclei were previously frozen, ensure the suspension is completely thawed and in suspension before beginning fixation.
- ·We recommend minimizing the length of time between nuclei isolation and fixation, as it can negatively impact the results. Store the samples on ice the entire time.
- If fixing between 1-4 million nuclei, use the High Input workflow in Appendix B. Exceeding the maximum number of nuclei in a single fixation will result in substantially elevated doublet rates. Exceeding the maximum number of nuclei in a single fixation will result in substantially elevated doublet rates.
- The minimum input into fixation should also be determined based on how the samples will be processed downstream. The table below provides guidance on the post-fixation concentrations needed for downstream kits. However, more or less sample input may be required depending on the exact experimental design. To accurately determine required post-fixation nuclei concentrations and volumes, reference the relevant Sample Loading Table.
- Note that retention during fixation varies typically between 40-60%, and some nuclei will be lost when freezing and thawing fixed samples, typically between 5-15%. The final concentration of nuclei post-fixation is also influenced by the resuspension volume used in Step 19 of Section 2. These factors should all be taken into account when determining how much sample input is needed for fixation.

NUCLEI CONCENTRATION		
Kit	Target Post-Fixation Concentration (nuclei/µL)	Minimum Post-Thaw Concentration to Fully Load Kit (nuclei/µL)
Evercode WT Mini	>500	298
Evercode WT	>1,000	520

NUCLEI CONCENTRATION		
Evercode WT Mega	>3,000	2,126
Evercode WT Mega 384	>1,000	651
Evercode WT Penta	4,500–5,000	4,114
Evercode WT Penta 384	4,200-5,000	3,255

Note: We do not recommend storing more than 5,000 nuclei/µL after fixation, as higher concentrations may increase the likelihood of doublet formation.

Avoiding RNase Contamination

- Standard precautions should be taken to avoid introducing RNases into samples or reagents throughout the workflow. Always wear proper laboratory gloves and use aseptic technique.
- Although RNases are not inactivated by ethanol or isopropanol, they are inactivated by products such as RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific). These can be sprayed on benchtops and pipettes.
- Nuclease-free, filtered pipette tips should be used to reduce RNase contamination from pipettes.

Plate Strainers

- An example video of using a Plate Strainer can be found in our support site. We recommend watching this video and practicing using Plate Strainers before processing your samples.
- After opening their plastic sleeves, Plate Strainers should be stored in their original plastic sleeve until use and used on the same day they were opened. We do not recommend using Plate Strainers more than one day after the plastic sleeve has been opened.
- Plate Strainers may need to be cut prior to processing samples. Plate Strainers should be cut with sterile scissors, razor blade, or scalpel that have been cleaned with RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) immediately prior to use.
- Plate Strainers should be thoroughly adhered to 96 well plates prior to use. After being placed by hand, a plate seal applicator should be used to completely seal the strainer over each well by pressing along the outside of the wells. The plate seal applicator should

be cleaned with RNaseZap RNase Decontamination Solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) immediately prior to use. Applicators should never be pressed directly onto the mesh.

- To maximize nuclei retention with Plate Strainers, press pipette tips directly against the mesh. Ensure ample pressure is applied to hold contact between the tip and the strainer to force liquid through in ~1 second.

Nuclei Counting and Quality Assessment

- We recommend a hemocytometer for counting, but alternative counting devices can also be used. If possible, validate counts from alternative devices to a hemocytometer when first using Evercode Fixation JP v4 kits.

- We suggest saving images at each counting step, especially when first using Evercode Fixation JP v4 kits.

- To assess sample quality, we recommend using viability stains like trypan blue or acridine orange and propidium iodide (AO/PI).

- If using Acridine Orange/Propidium Iodide (AO/PI) stains, we suggest using the red (PI) channel to count to avoid the impact of any autofluorescence in the green (AO) channel.

- Examples of trypan blue stained fixed cells are shown below. High quality fixed samples have single distinct nuclei with <5% aggregation and no debris. Higher levels of aggregation will lead to elevated doublets after sequencing and may indicate a poor quality nuclei isolation. When quantifying fixed nuclei, it is critical to avoid counting debris to avoid overestimating the number of nuclei.

High Quality Sample | Aggregation | Debris

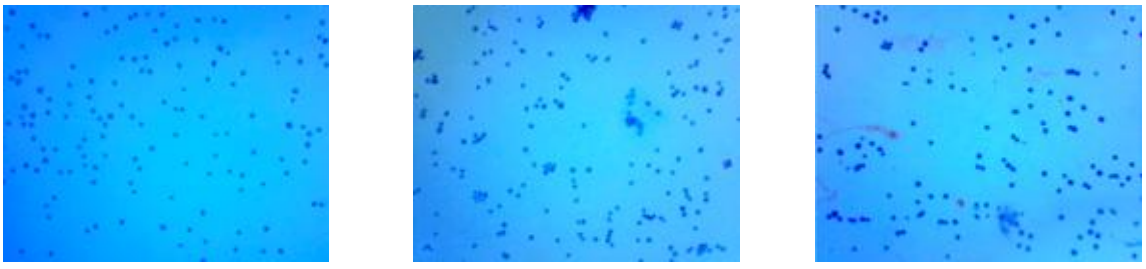

Figure 3: Example of trypan blue stained fixed cells.

Centrifugation

- A range of centrifugation speeds and durations are given in this protocol rather than a single speed. When using Evercode Fixation JP v4 kits for the first time or when testing

a new sample type, we recommend optimizing centrifugation conditions in 1.5 mL tubes before using the plate-based workflows.

- A swinging bucket rotor should be used for all high-speed centrifugation steps in this protocol. The use of a fixed-angle rotor will lead to substantial nuclei loss.

Maximizing Nuclei Recovery

- It is critical to thoroughly resuspend the nuclei after centrifugation throughout the protocol. Resuspend by slowly and repeatedly pipetting up and down until no clumps are visible. Ideally this should be verified with microscopy.

- To minimize nuclei loss from nuclei adherence to wells, carefully pipette up and down along the bottom and sides of plate's wells.

- We do not recommend wide bore pipette tips as they make it difficult to resuspend nuclei pellets adequately.

- When using Evercode Fixation JP v4 kits for the first few times, we recommend retaining the supernatants removed in Section 2, steps 9 and 29. In the unlikely event of very high sample loss, these supernatants can be analyzed to identify points for optimization.

Removing Supernatant from Plates

- When using the plate-based Evercode Fixation JP v4 workflow for the first time, we recommend practicing removing liquid from deep well plates without disturbing the bottom of the well.

- When removing supernatant, keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets. After removing most of the supernatant, we recommend tilting the plate at a 90 degree angle. This makes it easier to see the removal of residual supernatant from bottom and side of the plate.

- Less than 20 µL of supernatant should be left in each well after Section 2, steps 10 and 30. The figure below shows different volumes of supernatant when viewed from the bottom of the deep well plate.

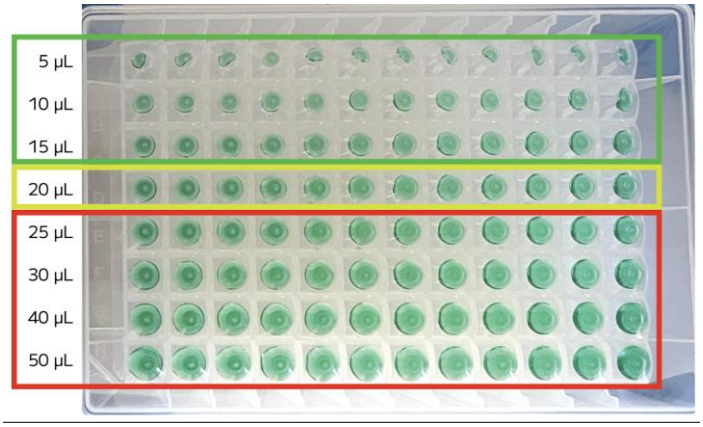

Figure 4: Bottom view of a deep well plate with different volumes of residual supernatant.

Reagent Stability

- Reagents in the Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents box should not be frozen and thawed more than 3 times.
- If the kit is going to be used more than 4 times, the reagents should be aliquoted into nuclease-free 1.5 mL tubes and stored at -20°C for up to 1 month. We do not recommend making single use aliquots to minimize the impact of evaporation during storage.
- To avoid pipetting <2 µL of RNase Inhibitor, we do not recommend preparing less than 2 reactions of Nuclei Storage Master Mix. If required, the master mix can be prepared without DMSO, split into aliquots, and stored at -20°C for up to a month. DMSO should be added prior to use in the protocol to a final concentration of 5%.

Storage of Fixed Samples

- Fixed samples can be stored at -80°C for up to 6 months. Fixed samples should not be refrozen after thawing.
- When possible, we recommend splitting samples into aliquots after fixation in Section 2, Step 32. The aliquots should be ≥20 µL when stored in 0.2 mL PCR tubes or tube strip(s). When possible, we recommend splitting samples into aliquots after fixation in Section 2, Step 21. The aliquots should be ≥20 µL when stored in 1.5 mL tubes.
- We recommend making a 20 µL counting aliquot for each sample. This aliquot should be used to update sample concentrations in the Evercode Sample Loading Table before starting the Evercode workflow. The loss after freeze/thaw should match the sample. This will minimize the time between sample thawing and the start of the Evercode workflow.

Part List

The Evercode Nuclei Fixation JP v4, mid-throughput plate workflow requires up to 4 Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents and Nuclei Fixation JP Enhancer boxes.

Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents, 12 reactions. Store at -20°C, JNF500

LABEL	ITEM	PN	FORMAT	QTY
	Prefixation Buffer	NF101	8 mL bottle	1
	Storage Buffer	NF102	2 mL tube	1
	Solution for Fixation	CNF101	2 ml tube	1
	Permeabilization Solution	NF113	1.5 mL tube	1
	Fix and Perm Stop Buffer	NF105	8 mL bottle	1
	RNase Inhibitor	NF106	1.5 mL tube	1
	DMSO	NF107	1.5 mL tube	1

Nuclei Prefixation JP Enhancer, 12 reactions. Store at 4°C, JNF600

LABEL	ITEM	PN	FORMAT	QTY
	Prefixation Enhancer	NF201	1.5 mL tube	1

30 µm Plate Strainer. Store at Room Temperature

LABEL	ITEM	PN	FORMAT	QTY
N/A	Adhesive Plate Strainer, 30 µM	PCS1030	Plastic sleeve	2

User Supplied Equipment and Materials

The following materials and equipment are required to perform the protocol but are not provided within the kit. This list does not include standard laboratory equipment, such as freezers.

Equipment

ITEM	SUPPLIER	PN	NOTES
Centrifuge with Swinging Bucket Rotor	Various Suppliers	Varies	Compatible with 1.5 mL and 15 mL tubes and capable of reaching 4°C. Compatible with 96 deep well plates and capable of reaching 4°C.
Microcentrifuge	Various Suppliers	Varies	Compatible with 1.5 mL tubes.
1-channel: P20, P200, P1000 12-channel: P20, P200	Various Suppliers	Varies	Or 8-channel pipettes can be substituted for 12-channel pipettes.
Hemocytometer	Sigma-Aldrich®	Z359629	Or other nuclei counting device.
Styrofoam Cooler	Various Suppliers	Varies	(Optional) If storing fixed samples before processing with an Evercode Whole Transcriptome kit.
Water bath	Various Suppliers	Varies	(Optional) If preparing aliquots to count the day before running a downstream Evercode Whole Transcriptome kit. Or equivalent thermomixer, heat block, or bead bath capable of holding temperature at 37°C.

Reagents

ITEM	SUPPLIER	PN	NOTES
RNaseZap™ RNase Decontamination Solution	Thermo Fisher Scientific	AM9780	Or equivalent RNase decontamination solution.
Trypan Blue	Various Suppliers	Varies	Or alternative viability dyes, such as AO/PI.
TrypLE™ Express OR TrypLE Select	Thermo Fisher Scientific	12605010 OR 12563011	(Optional) If using adherent cells. Trypsin is not recommended due to variable RNase levels.

ITEM	SUPPLIER	PN	NOTES
Gibco™ Bovine Albumin Fraction V (7.5% solution)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	15260037	(Optional) If blocking tubes with BSA. Chosen due to its low RNase activity. Contact applications support for alternatives.

Consumables

ITEM	SUPPLIER	PN	NOTES
SealPlate®	Excel Scientific®	100-SEAL-PLT	Or equivalent PCR plate seals. Note that many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at -80°C, so we recommend using foil plate seals if storing fixed samples in PCR plates.
TempPlate® EXT Sealing Foil	USA Scientific®	2998-0100	(Optional) If storing fixed samples in a PCR plate. Note that many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at -80°C.
Protein LoBind® Plate	Eppendorf®	951033308 (1 mL) 0030504305 (2 mL)	Or equivalent polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL or 2 mL deep well plates. Do not substitute polystyrene plates as it will lead to substantial cell loss. If possible, we recommend using protein low-binding plates.
Reagent basins	Various Suppliers	Varies	(Optional) If blocking deep well plates with BSA. Sterile, nuclease-free reagent basins.
Eppendorf twin.tec® PCR Plate 96 LoBind®	Eppendorf	0030129504	Or equivalent DNA low-binding, nuclease-free PCR plate capable of holding 270 µL.
Falcon® High Clarity PP Centrifuge Tubes, 15 mL and 50mL	Corning®	352097 (15 mL) 352098 (50 mL)	Or equivalent polypropylene centrifuge tubes.
TempAssure® PCR 8-Tube Strips, 0.2 mL	USA Scientific®	1402-4700	Or equivalent nuclease-free 0.2 mL PCR tubes.
Pipette Tips TR LTS 20 µL, 200 µL, 1,000 µL	Rainin®	17014961, 17014963, 17014967	Or appropriate DNA low-binding, low retention, DNase/RNase-free, and filtered pipette tips. Do not use wide bore tips.

Section 1: Set Up

1.1. Block Plates with BSA

Although not required, blocking plates with BSA can increase cell retention. When Protein LoBind plates are not available, we recommend blocking plates, especially for samples with low cell inputs or cells prone to aggregation.

To block plates:

1. Prepare a fresh 1% BSA as follows, depending on the number of samples being processed.

1% BSA			
Number of Samples	1	12	48
Nuclease-free water	1.82 mL	21.8 mL	87.2 mL
Gibco Bovine Albumin Fraction V (7.5% solution)	280 µL	3.4 mL	13.6 mL
Total Volume	2.1 mL	25.2 mL	100.8 mL

2. Fill a new basin with 1% BSA, refilling as needed in step 3.
3. For each sample, add **1 mL** of 1% BSA to a well of a polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL deep well plate, or **2 mL** per well for a 2 mL deep well plate.
4. Repeat step 3 with a second deep well plate.
5. Add new plate seals and invert once to fully coat the wells.
6. Incubate for **30 minutes** at room temperature.
7. Remove the plate seals. Decant and discard the 1% BSA.
8. Add new plate seals.
9. Centrifuge the plates for **1 minute** at 100 x g at room temperature.
10. Remove the plates from the centrifuge and remove the plate seals.
11. Remove any remaining solution from the bottom of the wells with a multichannel P200.

12. Without sealing the plates, air dry for **30 minutes** in a biosafety cabinet at room temperature.

13. Proceed to Section 1.2 or store sealed BSA-coated plates at 4°C for up to 4 weeks.

1.2. Prepare Master Mixes

The reagents listed in this section are for the 12-reaction kit. If you are using the 96-reaction kit, please refer to the corresponding reagents. Master mixes are prepared and dispensed into 96 well PCR plates. This makes it easier to transfer reagents into 96 well plates during fixation Master mixes should be prepared just prior to fixation. Plate Strainers are cut, if needed.

To prepare master mixes:

1. Fill a bucket with ice. Gather the following items and handle as indicated below.

Note: The reagents listed below refer to the Evercode Cell Fixation 12 Reactions Kit (boxes JNF500 and JNF600). For runs with more than 48 samples, use the Evercode Cell Fixation 96 Reactions Kit (boxes JNF700 and JNF800).

ITEM	SOURCE	FORMAT	HANDLING AND STORAGE
○ Prefixation Buffer	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	8 mL bottle	Thaw at room temperature then immediately store on ice. Mix by inverting each tube/bottle. Do not vortex.
● Storage Buffer	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	2 mL tube	
○ Solution for Fixation	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	2 ml tube	
● Permeabilization Solution	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	1.5 mL tube	
○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	8 mL bottle	
● DMSO	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	1.5 mL tube	Thaw and store at room temperature. Mix by inverting the tube.
● RNase Inhibitor	Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents (-20°C)	1.5 mL tube	Store on ice immediately before use. Do not vortex.
● Prefixation Enhancer	Nuclei Prefixation JP Enhancer (4°C)	1.5 mL tube	
Plate Strainer (30 µm)	Plate Strainer (Room Temperature)	Plastic sleeve	Keep at room temperature

2. Prepare the Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix in a new tube as follows. Mix thoroughly by pipetting and store on ice.

NUCLEI PREFIXATION MASTER MIX		
Number of samples	1	12*
○ Prefixation Buffer	203.5 µL	2.44 mL
● RNase Inhibitor	2.75 µL	33 µL
● Prefixation Enhancer	13.75 µL	165 µL
Total Volume	220 µL	2.64 mL

* For sample numbers greater than 12 and up to 48, calculate the volumes accordingly.

CRITICAL! Reagents in the Nuclei Fixation JP Reagents box can be frozen and thawed 3 times. If the kit will be used more than 4 times, aliquots should be made. See Reagent Stability in Important Guidelines for details.

3. For each fixation reaction, dispense **210 µL** of the Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix into a new 96 well PCR plate. Seal, clearly label, and store on ice.

CRITICAL! Do not dispense this master mix into a reagent reservoir because there is not sufficient overage to ensure recovery of the volume required for the fixation. This is true for all the master mixes and reagents dispensed into a new 96 well PCR plate in this section.

4. Prepare the Nuclei Storage Master Mix in a new tube as follows. Mix thoroughly by pipetting and store on ice.

NUCLEI STORAGE MASTER MIX		
Number of samples	1	12*
● Storage Buffer	131.25 µL	1.57 mL
● RNase Inhibitor	1.75 µL	21 µL
● DMSO	7 µL	84 µL
Total Volume	140 µL	1.68 mL

* For sample numbers greater than 12 and up to 48, calculate the volumes accordingly.

5. For each fixation reaction, dispense **115 µL** of the Nuclei Storage Master Mix into a new 96 well PCR plate. Seal, clearly label, and store on ice.

6. For each fixation reaction, dispense **135 µL** of the ○ Solution of Fixation into a new 96 well PCR plate. Seal, clearly label, and store on ice.

7. For each fixation reaction, dispense **40 µL** of the ● Permeabilization Solution into a new 96 well PCR plate. Seal, clearly label, and store on ice.

8. Mix the ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer by inverting the tube 5x. Do not vortex.

9. For each fixation reaction, dispense **270 µL** of the ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer a new 96 well PCR plate. Seal, clearly label, and store on ice.

10. Each sample is strained twice into 2 different plates in Section 2, so Plate Strainer(s) may need to be cut so they can be applied separately in the two steps with 1 strainer well per sample at both steps. With the Plate Strainers still in the plastic sleeve, cut along the green plastic with sterile scissors, a razor blade, or a scalpel that has been cleaned with RNaseZap.

CRITICAL! Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.

CRITICAL! After opening their plastic sleeves, Plate Strainers should be stored in their original plastic sleeve until use and used on the same day they were opened.

11. Proceed immediately to Section 2.

Section 2: Fixation

2.1. Nuclei Fixation

After the initial centrifugation to remove the buffer/medium from the single nuclei suspension, nuclei are transferred to Nuclei Prefix Master Mix. Reagents are added to fix and permeabilize nuclei, and then stop these reactions. Nuclei are resuspended in Nuclei Storage Master Mix and stored at -80°C. This fixation protocol relies on multichannel pipettes and the reagents pre-dispensed in 0.2 mL tube strips or plates in Section 1 to fix up to 48 samples in parallel.

To fix nuclei:

1. Cool the centrifuge with a swinging bucket rotor to 4°C.
2. Fill a bucket with ice.
3. Prepare a hemocytometer, flow cytometer, or other nuclei counting device.
4. Count the nuclei in the single nuclei suspension with a hemocytometer or alternative counting device and record the count. Keep nuclei on ice during counting and work quickly to minimize time on ice prior to fixation.
5. With the plate on ice, transfer 100,000 to 1 million nuclei from each sample into the wells of polypropylene, nuclease-free, v-bottom, 1 mL or 2 mL deep well plate (or BSA-coated deep well plate if prepared in Section 1.1).
6. Add a new plate seal.
7. Centrifuge the plate in a swinging bucket rotor for **5-10 minutes** at 200-500 x g at 4°C.

   CRITICAL! Use of a fixed-angle rotor in this protocol will lead to substantial nuclei loss.

   CRITICAL! Ideal centrifugation speed and duration should be determined for each sample type to optimize retention and resuspension efficiencies. See the Important Guidelines section for details.

   CRITICAL! Move quickly and handle the samples gently to avoid dislodging the pellet, which will impact data quality.

8. Remove the plate from the centrifuge, remove the plate seal, and store on ice.

9. With a multichannel P200, slowly aspirate and discard all but ~100 µL of supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.

CRITICAL! Do not reuse any tips across rows throughout this protocol. Never place a tip that has entered one of the wells into a different well or back into a master mix.

10. Tilt the plate 90 degrees. With a multichannel P200, remove and discard the remaining supernatant. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.

CRITICAL! Less than 20 µL of supernatant should be left in each well. See the Important Guidelines section for an example image with varying amounts of residual supernatant.

Note: Tilting the plate 90 degrees makes it easier to visualize removal of residual supernatant.

11. With the plate on ice, fully resuspend each pellet in **125 µL** of Nuclei Prefixation Master Mix.

12. Apply a Plate Strainer to a new 96 deep well plate (or BSA-coated deep well plate if prepared in Section 1.1) by peeling off the backing, carefully aligning over the wells, and placing on the surface of the plate.

CRITICAL! Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.

Note: Plate Strainer(s) will need to be cut if processing fewer than 96 samples. See Step 10 in Section 1.2 for details.

13. Without touching the mesh, fully adhere the Plate Strainer by pressing a pipette tip or plate sealer cleaned with RNaseZap along the green plastic on the edges and between the wells of the plate.

14. With both plates on ice, pipette **125 µL** of each sample through the strainer into the new 96 deep well plate. Discard the original plate.

Note: To ensure that all of the liquid passes through the strainer, firmly press the tip of the pipette against the filter and steadily depress down the pipette plunger. All of the liquid should pass through the strainer in ~1 second.

15. Tap the plate 3x on the benchtop to move liquid to the bottom of the wells.

16. Carefully peel off the Plate Strainer and discard.

17. With the plate on ice, add **125 µL** of ○ Solution for Fixation to each well and mix immediately by pipetting exactly 3x.

CRITICAL! Do not perform additional mixing at this step.

18. Incubate on ice for **10 minutes.**

Note: Start the timer after adding Fixative Solution to the first row of the plate.

19. With the plate on ice, add **20 µL** of ● Permeabilization Solution to each well with a multichannel P20 and mix immediately by pipetting 3x with a multichannel P200 set to 180 µL.

20. Incubate on ice for **3 minutes**.

Note: Start the timer after adding ● Permeabilization Solution to the first row of the plate. This incubation can be extended by 2 additional minutes up to a total of 5 minutes without negatively impacting performance.

21. With the plate on ice and changing tips between additions, add **250 µL** of ○ Fix and Perm Stop Buffer to each well with a multichannel P200 set to 125 µL and mix immediately by gently pipetting 3x.

22. Add a new plate seal.

23. Centrifuge the plate in a swinging bucket rotor for **5-10 minutes** at 200-500 x g at 4°C.

24. Remove the plate from the centrifuge, remove the plate seal, and store on ice.

25. With a multichannel P200 set to 200 µL, slowly aspirate and discard 400 µL of supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.

26. Tilt the plate 90 degrees. With a multichannel P200, remove and discard the remaining supernatant from each well. Keep the pipette tips along the side of the wells to avoid disturbing the pellets.

CRITICAL! Less than 20 µL of supernatant should be left in each well after steps 25-26. See the Important Guidelines section for example images of varying volumes of residual supernatant.

Note: Tilting the plate 90 degrees makes it easier to visualize removal of residual supernatant.

27. With the plate on ice, fully resuspend each pellet in **75 µL** of Nuclei Storage Master Mix.

28. Apply a Plate Strainer to a new 0.2 mL 96 well PCR plate by peeling off the backing, carefully aligning over the wells, and placing on the surface of the plate.

CRITICAL! Do not directly touch the mesh of Plate Strainer(s) to anything prior to straining.

29. Without touching the mesh, fully adhere the Plate Strainer by pressing a pipette tip or plate sealer cleaned with RNaseZap along the green plastic on the edges and between the wells of the plate.

30. With both plates on ice, pipette **85 µL** of each sample through the strainer into the new PCR plate. Discard the original plate.

31. Carefully peel off the Plate Strainer and discard.

32. With a multichannel P20 set to 20 µL, mix the samples by pipetting 5x then immediately transfer **20 µL** to new 0.2 mL tube strip(s). Store on ice.

Note: These aliquots can be thawed and counted separately from the remaining sample for downstream processing with Evercode kits.

33. Seal the original plate with a seal that can withstand storage at -80°C or transfer the remainder of the sample to 0.2 mL tube strip(s).

CRITICAL! Many clear plastic seals are not designed for storage at -80°C, so we recommend using foil plate seals if storing fixed samples in PCR plates.

34. Place the samples in a room temperature styrofoam cooler, close the lid, and store at -80°C to slowly cool the samples.

CRITICAL! Storing samples directly in the freezer without controlled cooling may lead to nuclei damage and compromise data quality.

Safe stopping point: Samples are stable for up to 6 months at -80°C.

35. The day before running the downstream Evercode kit, thaw the 20 µL aliquots in a water bath set to 37°C in sets of 2-4. Count the nuclei in the single nuclei suspension with a hemocytometer or alternative counting device and record the count. Discard any remaining sample.

Note: These counts will more accurately reflect counts when collected closer to downstream Evercode processing because they have undergone a similar storage time and the freeze thaw. These counts can be used to calculate any necessary dilutions with the Sample Loading Table for the relevant Evercode kit.

Appendix: Revision History

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Initial release	March 2026

PARSE BIOSCIENCES

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