

# Western Blotting Tools

What is your Western blot telling you about your research?



# Rethink Western blotting.

Explore our products designed to improve each step of the Western blotting workflow.

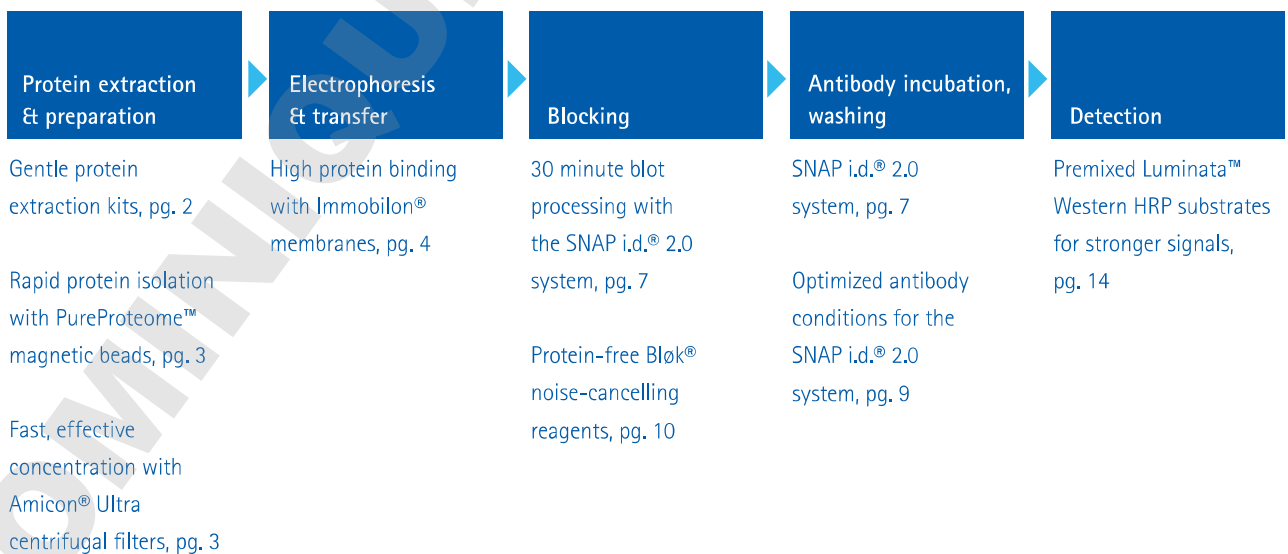
Western blotting is one of the most commonly used techniques in the lab, yet difficulties persist in obtaining consistent, quality results. At Merck Millipore, we've been helping scientists perform their Western blots for decades, with continued innovation and steadfast technical support.

Explore our expanded portfolio of products, including optimized reagents for chemiluminescent and fluorescent Westerns, as well as the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system, which reduces blocking, washing and antibody incubation time from hours to minutes.



Access to our Western blotting expertise is easy—flip to our troubleshooting section at the end of this brochure, or contact our experienced technical service team at: [www.merckmillipore.com/techservice](http://www.merckmillipore.com/techservice)

## Western Blotting Workflow Solution



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# Protein extraction & sample preparation

Protein extraction and purification represent the first of many challenges in obtaining a quality lysate or purified protein sample that delivers publication-quality Western blot results. Merck Millipore's quality reagents unite superior performance with speed to reduce exposure of proteins to unfavorable conditions, leading to more stable, intact proteins for downstream analysis.

## Extraction kits and protease inhibitors

Protein stability is fundamental to all aspects of protein research, including analysis by Western blotting. Combine our gentle protein extraction kits with protease inhibitors to obtain stabilized, intact and active proteins.

| Description  | Catalogue No. |
|--|---------------|
| BugBuster® Protein Extraction Reagent (for bacterial lysis)  | 70584         |
| BugBuster® Plus Benzonase® Nuclease<br>(nucleic acid degradation for more efficient lysis and less viscous lysate) | 70750         |
| BugBuster® Master Mix  | 71456         |
| YeastBuster® Protein Extraction Reagent (for yeast cell lysis)   | 71186         |
| CytoBuster® Protein Extraction Reagent (for mammalian cell lysis)  | 71009         |
| ProteoExtract® Subcellular Proteome Extraction Kit   | 539790        |
| ProteoExtract® Complete Mammalian Proteome Extraction Kit  | 539779        |
| ProteoExtract® Native Membrane Protein Extraction Kit  | 444810        |
| ProteoExtract® Transmembrane Protein Extraction Kit  | 71772         |
| Nuclear Extraction Kit   | 2900          |
| RIPA Lysis Buffer, 10X, 100 mL   | 20-188        |
| Calbiochem® Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Set III, EDTA-Free   | 539134-1SET   |
| Pepstatin A, 100 mg  | 516481        |
| Chymostatin, 100 mg  | E16           |
| Leupeptin, 100 mg  | E18           |

For a complete list of our inhibitors and inhibitor cocktail product offerings, please visit:  
[www.merckmillipore.com/inhibitors](http://www.merckmillipore.com/inhibitors)

## Affinity purification

Merck Millipore offers a wide range of tools for protein purification, including affinity magnetic beads, affinity agarose resins and Amicon® Pro purification system.

- PureProteome™ magnetic beads are ideal for small volume affinity purification assays, such as immunoprecipitation and serum depletion or enrichment.
- Affinity agarose portfolio for larger volume applications, such as antibody purification and recombinant protein purification.
- Amicon® Pro purification system is ideal for small volume affinity purification assays followed by buffer exchange and/or concentration.

| Description                                   | Catalogue No. |
|---|---------------|
| PureProteome™ Protein A Magnetic Beads, 10 mL | LSKMAGA10     |
| PureProteome™ Protein G Magnetic Beads, 10 mL | LSKMAGG10     |
| Protein A Agarose, fast flow, 10 mL           | 16-156        |
| Protein G Agarose, fast flow, 10 mL           | 16-266        |
| Protein A/G Mix, 10 mL                        | IP10-10ML     |

Learn more at: [www.merckmillipore.com/purity](http://www.merckmillipore.com/purity)

## Choose an Amicon® Pro device:

To choose the appropriate Amicon® Pro device, determine the molecular weight cut-off (MWCO) of your protein of interest.

| Amicon® Pro Purification System       | MWCO      |           |           |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       | 3,000     | 10,000    | 30,000    | 50,000    | 100,000   |
| Amicon® Pro Purification System 12/ρk | ACS500312 | ACS501012 | ACS503012 | ACS505012 | ACS510012 |
| Amicon® Pro Purification System 24/ρk | ACS500324 | ACS501024 | ACS503024 | ACS505024 | ACS510024 |

Learn more at: [www.merckmillipore.com/amiconpro](http://www.merckmillipore.com/amiconpro)

## Buffer exchange and concentration

Simultaneously concentrate and desalt your samples with Amicon® Ultra centrifugal filters. Their unparalleled rapid and reproducible performance minimizes protein exposure to harsh buffers. For fast and easy dialysis, use D-Tube™ Dialyzers, which provide 89% recovery and 99.9% desalting in as little as two to five hours.

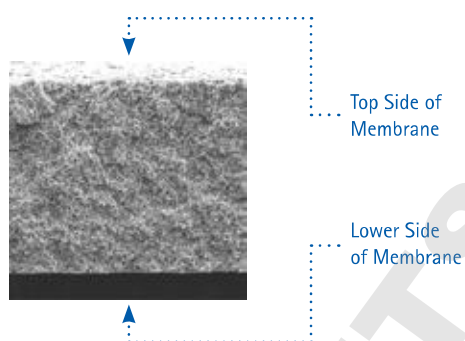
| Description   | Catalogue No. |
|---|---------------|
| Amicon® Ultra – 0.5 mL Filters*, 24/ρk              | UFC501024     |
| Amicon® Ultra – 2 mL Filters*, 24/ρk                | UFC201024     |
| Amicon® Ultra – 4 mL Filters*, 24/ρk                | UFC801024     |
| Amicon® Ultra – 15 mL Filters*, 24/ρk               | UFC901024     |
| D-Tube™ Mini (10 to 250 μL), 96-well, 7,000 NMWCO** | 71712-3       |
| D-Tube™ Midi (50 to 800 μL), 10/ρk, 7,000 NMWCO**   | 71507-3       |
| D-Tube™ Maxi (100 μL to 3 mL), 10/ρk, 7,000 NMWCO** | 71509-3       |
| D-Tube™ Mega (3 to 10 mL), 10/ρk, 7,000 NMWCO**     | 71740-3       |
| D-Tube™ Mega (10 to 15 mL), 10/ρk, 7,000 NMWCO**    | 71743-4       |
| D-Tube™ Mega (15 to 20 mL), 10/ρk, 7,000 NMWCO**    | 71746-3       |

\* Find the right filter to concentrate your sample. Search with our Amicon® Ultra Selector Tool for access to all Molecular Weight Cut-Off (MWCO) and pack size options: [www.merckmillipore.com/amicon](http://www.merckmillipore.com/amicon)

\*\* For complete D-Tube™ ordering information, visit: [www.merckmillipore.com/psp](http://www.merckmillipore.com/psp)

# Electrophoresis & transfer

## Immobilon® Western blotting transfer membranes



Membranes are 3-dimensional structures full of microscopic pores (Scanning electron microscope image of a cross-section of Immobilon®-P, Magnification: 500x).

### Publications citing Immobilon®: ~52,000

This family of trusted, quality transfer membranes includes Immobilon®-P, the first and most commonly used PVDF membrane for Western transfers.

### How do Immobilon® membranes work?

Membranes bind biomolecules through hydrophobic (polyvinylidene (PVDF)) or electrostatic (cellulose-based membranes) interactions. Membrane pores increase the surface binding area while restricting sizes of bound proteins.

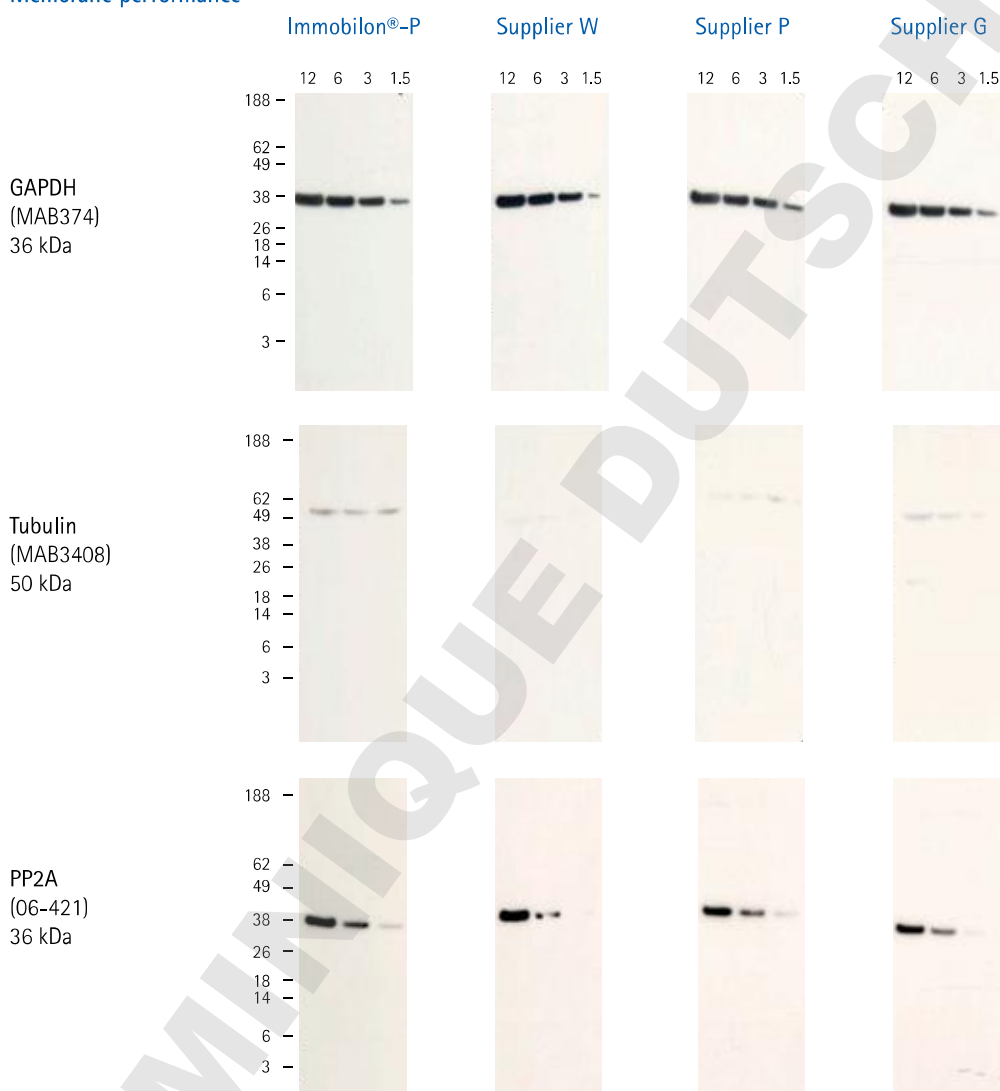
### Key Benefits

- Stronger protein signals due to high protein adsorption & retention
- Prolonged shelf life due to higher tensile strength (will not crack or curl like pure nitrocellulose)
- Easier stripping & reprobing with PVDF membranes
- Variety of pore sizes provide optimal protein retention

## Comparison of various Immobilon® membranes

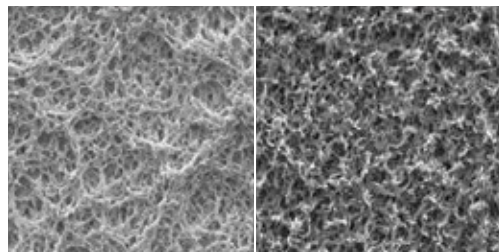
|                          | Immobilon®-P   | Immobilon®-P <sup>50</sup>   |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Best used for            | Most protein transfers for any gel matrix  | Small proteins (<20kDa), lysates or difficult Westerns   |
| Composition              | PVDF   | PVDF   |
| Hydrophilicity           | Hydrophobic  | Hydrophobic  |
| Pore size                | 0.45 µm  | 0.2 µm   |
| Detection method         | Chemiluminescence  | Chemiluminescence<br>Fluorescence  |
| Protein binding capacity | Insulin: 160 µg/cm <sup>2</sup><br>BSA: 215 µg/cm <sup>2</sup><br>Goat IgG: 294 µg/cm <sup>2</sup> | Insulin: 262 µg/cm <sup>2</sup><br>BSA: 340 µg/cm <sup>2</sup><br>Goat IgG: 448 µg/cm <sup>2</sup> |

## Membrane performance



| Description   | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|---|--------|---------------|
| <b>Immobilon®-P PVDF Transfer Membrane, 0.45 µm</b> |        |               |
| 26.5 cm x 3.75 m                                    | 1 roll | IPVH00010     |
| 7 x 8.4 cm  | 50/pk  | IPVH07850     |
| 8.5 x 13.5 cm                                       | 10/pk  | IPVH08130     |
| 20 x 20 cm  | 10/pk  | IPVH20200     |

# Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> transfer membrane for smaller proteins

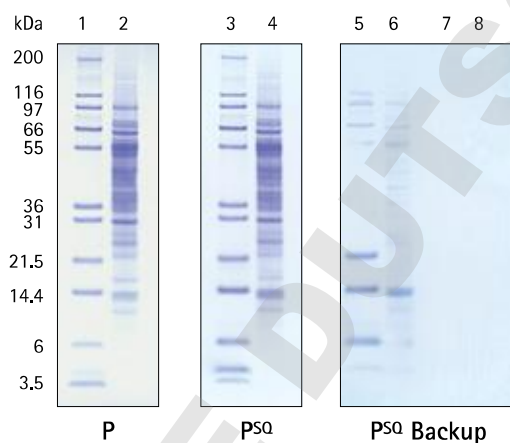


Scanning electron microscopy images (3000x magnification) showing the smaller & more uniform pores in the Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membrane (right) relative to Immobilon®-P membrane (left).

Publications citing Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup>:  
~750

## How do Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membranes work?

This PVDF membrane has a 0.2 µm pore size with a thickness of ~200 µm. Because it has smaller pores and approximately three times the internal surface area of most membranes, Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membrane has higher protein binding capacity, improving retention of small proteins.



Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membrane prevents the proteins from blowing through the membrane, increasing protein signal. Molecular weight standards (lanes 1 and 3) and calf liver lysate (lanes 2 and 4) were transferred to Immobilon®-P or Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membranes. A sheet of Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membrane was placed behind the primary membranes to capture proteins that passed through (lanes 5 and 6 behind Immobilon®-P membrane; lanes 7 and 8 behind Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> membrane).

## Key Benefits

- Higher binding capacity and retention resulting in stronger signals
- Prevents blow-through of low molecular weight proteins (<20 kDa)
- Compatible with chemiluminescent and fluorescence detection techniques

## Ideal for:

1. Westerns involving lysates or small proteins (<20 kDa), such as histones
2. Difficult Westerns due to:
  - Low-abundance target proteins
  - Low-affinity antibodies

| Description   | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|---|--------|---------------|
| <b>Immobilon®-P<sup>SO</sup> PVDF Transfer Membrane, 0.2 µm</b> |        |               |
| 26.5 cm x 3.75 m  | 1 roll | ISEQ00010     |
| 7 x 8.4 cm  | 50/pk  | ISEQ07850     |
| 8.5 x 13.5 cm   | 10/pk  | ISEQ08130     |
| 20 x 20 cm  | 10/pk  | ISEQ20200     |



# Blocking & antibody addition

## SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 System

Take protein detection to new dimensions.

The SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system is the second generation in rapid immunodetection technology from Merck Millipore. This fast, versatile system now includes exciting new capabilities to better optimize your Western blotting conditions.

### How does the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system work?

The vacuum-driven SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system fully exploits three-dimensional reagent distribution and decreases the immunodetection time from hours to minutes using the following mechanisms:

1. The system increases local antibody concentrations at binding sites by using vacuum filtration, driving the antibody-antigen binding reaction forward and shortening incubation times.
2. Vacuum pulls any residual, unbound antibody out of the membrane, lowering background signal.

### Key Benefits

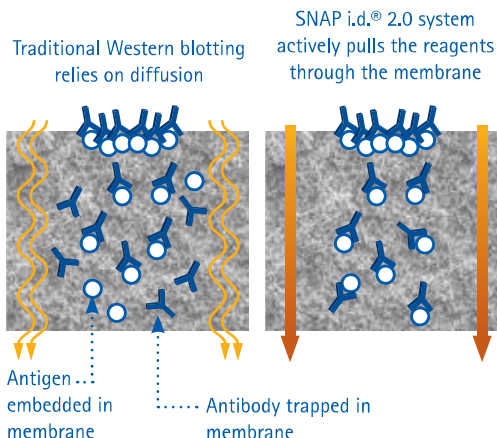
- Faster results
- Faster testing of different antibodies
- Higher throughput of Western blots each day



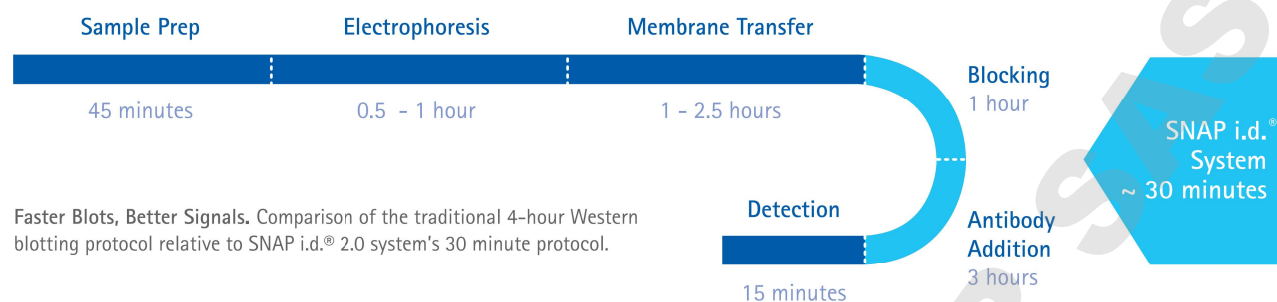
### Key Features

- Fastest immunodetection on the market
- Increased antibody-antigen binding
- Superior washes for lower background
- Antibody recollection

How does the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system Lower Background? Traditional immunodetection relies on the slow diffusion of reagents into and out of the blot, leading to long incubation times and possible high background. The SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system actively pulls the antibodies through the membrane for maximum interaction with the antigens without a residual high background.



## SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system in the Western blotting workflow



Faster Blots, Better Signals. Comparison of the traditional 4-hour Western blotting protocol relative to SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system's 30 minute protocol.



Midi Blot Holder



Mini Blot Holder



MultiBlot Holder

### SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 systems

| Description   | Catalogue No. |
|---|---------------|
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - Mini (7.5 x 8.4 cm)                                 | SNAP2MINI     |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - Midi (8.5 x 13.5 cm)                                | SNAP2MIDI     |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - MultiBlot (4.5 x 8.4 cm)                            | SNAP2MB3      |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - Mini and Midi (7.5 x 8.4 cm and 8.5 x 13.5 cm)      | SNAP2MM       |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - Mini and MultiBlot (7.5 x 8.4 cm and 4.5 x 8.4 cm)  | SNAP2MB1      |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 System - Midi and MultiBlot (8.5 x 13.5 cm and 4.5 x 8.4 cm) | SNAP2MB2      |

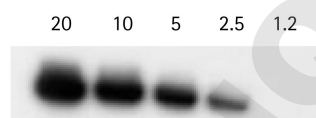
### SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 consumables

| Description  | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|--|--------|---------------|
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Mini Blot Holders (7.5 x 8.4 cm)  | 100/pk | SNAP2BHMN0100 |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Midi Blot Holders (8.5 x 13.5 cm) | 100/pk | SNAP2BHMD0100 |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 MultiBlot Holders (4.5 x 8.4 cm)  | 50/pk  | SNAP2BHMB050  |

### SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 accessories

| Description   | Qty   | Catalogue No. |
|---|-------|---------------|
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Antibody Collection Tray               | 20/pk | SNAPABTR      |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Blot Roller                            | 1/pk  | SNAP2RL       |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Mini Blot Holding Frames (double pack) | 2/pk  | SNAP2FRMN02   |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Midi Blot Holding Frames (double pack) | 2/pk  | SNAP2FRMD02   |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Mini Blot Holding Frame (single pack)  | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRMN01   |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 Midi Blot Holding Frame (single pack)  | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRMD01   |
| SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> 2.0 MultiBlot Frame (single pack)          | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRMB01   |

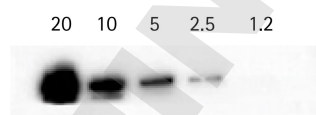
## SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> Analysis



### Anti-Huntingtin Protein (Catalogue No. MAB2166)

1:400 dilution of this antibody detected Huntingtin protein in rat brain lysate (20 - 1.2 µg).

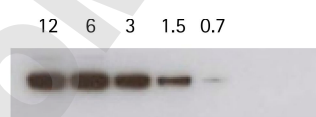
Proteins were detected using Luminata<sup>™</sup> Forte HRP detection reagent. Exposure of the blots to X-ray film time varies from 20 sec. to 30 min.



### Anti-Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 5 (Catalogue No. AB5675)

1:200 dilution of this antibody detected Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 5 in rat brain lysate (20 - 1.2 µg).

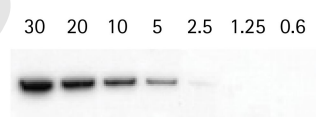
Proteins were detected using Luminata<sup>™</sup> Forte HRP detection reagent. Exposure of the blots to X-ray film time varies from 20 sec. to 30 min.



### Anti-erbB2 (intracellular domain) (Catalogue No. 04-291)

1:200 dilution of this antibody detected erbB2 in A431 lysate (12 - 0.7 µg).

Proteins were detected using Luminata<sup>™</sup> Forte HRP detection reagent and blots. Exposure of the blots to X-ray film varies from 20 sec. to 30 min.



### Anti-Pyk2 (Catalogue No. 06-559)

1:200 dilution of this antibody detected Pyk2 protein in rat brain lysate (30 - 0.6 µg).

Proteins were detected using Luminata<sup>™</sup> Forte HRP detection reagent and blots. Exposure of the blots to X-ray film varies from 20 sec. to 30 min.

## Resources for the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system

### Optimized antibody conditions for the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system

Obtain fast, reproducible results using optimized dilutions, blocking, and incubation conditions for the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 system.

For a complete listing, visit the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> 2.0 System Antibody Optimization Reference Guide at:

[www.merckmillipore.com/snapab](http://www.merckmillipore.com/snapab)

All the proteins below were detected using Luminata forte HRP detection reagent and blots, exposure of the blots to X-ray film varies from 20 sec to 30 min.

| Target Protein                         | Dilution used in the SNAP i.d. <sup>®</sup> system | Catalogue No. |
|--|--|---------------|
| Akt/pkB                                | 1 to 400   | 05-796        |
| CREB                                   | 1 to 200   | 06-863        |
| Caspase-3                              | 1 to 400   | AB3623        |
| Cyclin D1                              | 1 to 200   | 04-1151       |
| EGF receptor                           | 1 to 200   | 05-104        |
| MAP Kinase ErK1/2                      | 1 to 500   | 06-182        |
| anti-erbB2                             | 1 to 200   | 04-291        |
| anti-GAPDH                             | 1 to 10,000  | MAB374        |
| anti-GST M1 (mu)                       | 1 to 200   | ABN19         |
| anti-Glyal                             | 1 to 400   | MAB3402       |
| anti-Glutamate receptor 1              | 1 to 400   | AB1504        |
| anti-Huntigton protein                 | 1 to 400   | MAB2166       |
| anti-Integrin                          | 1 to 1000  | AB1928        |
| anti-mGluR5                            | 1 to 200   | AB5675        |
| anti-NFkB p52                          | 1 to 400   | 06-413        |
| anti-NMDR-1                            | 1 to 400   | AB9864        |
| anti-P53 (N-term)                      | 1 to 200   | 04-083        |
| anti- $\alpha$ PAN Cadherin            | 1 to 400   | ABT35         |
| anti-PP2 (serin/threonine phosphatase) | 1 to 1000  | 05-321        |
| anti-PTEN                              | 1 to 200   | 04-035        |
| anti-PyK-2                             | 1 to 200   | 06-559        |
| anti-RAS clone Ras 10                  | 1 to 500   | 05-516        |
| anti-Rac 1 clone 23A8                  | 1 to 200   | 05-389        |
| anti-STAT-1                            | 1 to 100   | 05-987        |
| anti-Tau 1                             | 1 to 400   | MAB3420       |
| anti- $\beta$ Tubulin                  | 1 to 1000  | MAB3408       |

### Publications citing the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> system: 600+

#### Join the Community of Published SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> Users:

For a sampling of the peer-reviewed publications citing the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> system, visit: [www.merckmillipore.com/snappub](http://www.merckmillipore.com/snappub)

# Bløk®

## Noise cancelling reagents

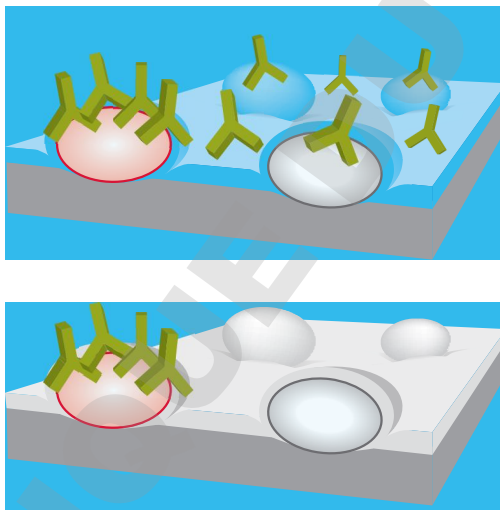


In Western blotting, blocking of unbound membrane sites is necessary to prevent non-specific binding of the antibodies, which leads to high backgrounds. Traditional milk/protein-blockers can leave a thick layer of sticky proteins that:

1. Reduce the sensitivity or detection by masking the signal.
2. Are not compatible with detection of protein phosphorylation due to the presence of phosphoproteins in milk.

### How does Bløk®-CH reagent improve results?

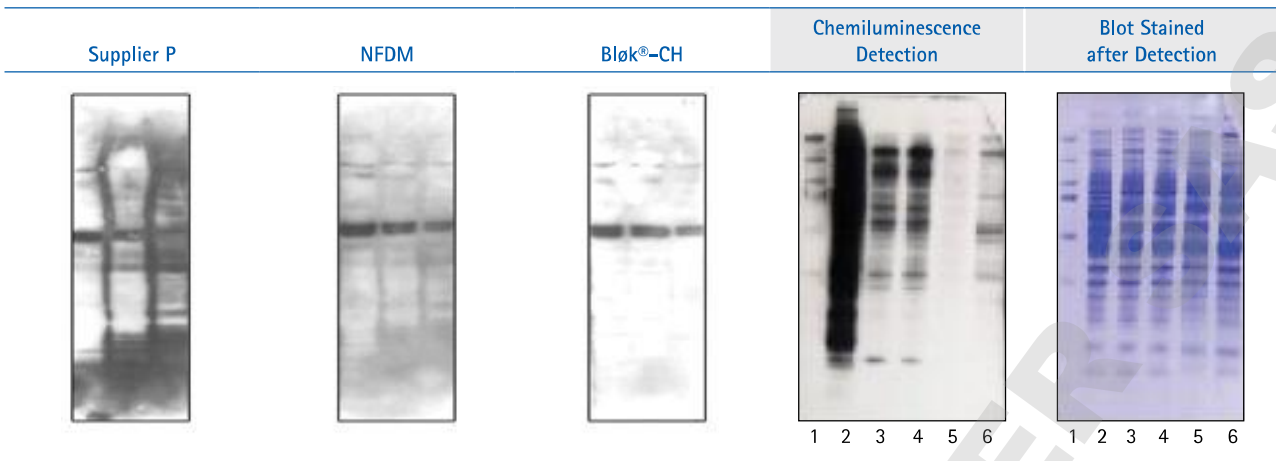
This chemical-based, protein-free blocker decreases background caused by non-specific antibody binding.



Milk can leave a thick protein deposit, resulting in non-specific binding of the antibody to the entire blot (top panel). Bløk® reagent coats the blot with a thin chemical layer that does not bind antibodies (bottom panel), leading to less non-specific binding by the antibodies and a lower background.

### Key Benefits

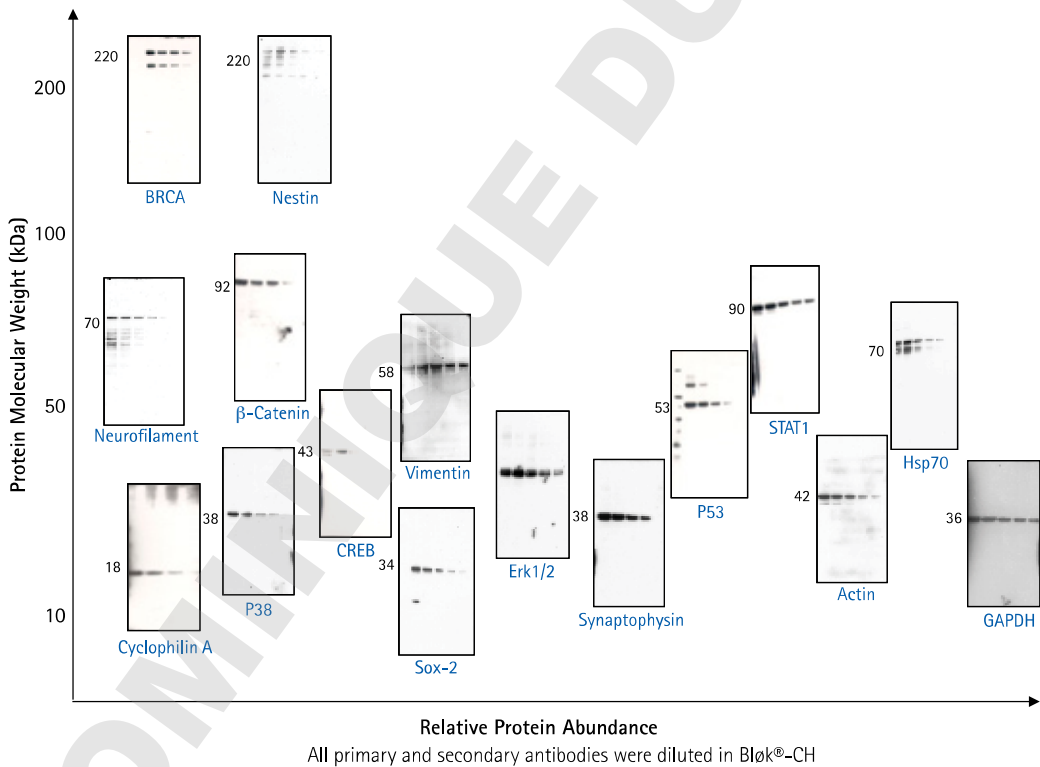
- Reduced background for better protein detection
- No need to run a second gel for Coomassie staining
- Stable at room temperature for 2 years
- Ready to use, no mixing required



Bløk® reagents provide better signal-to-noise ratios compared to NFDM or blocking reagents from Supplier P. Chemiluminescence detection of p53 in EGF-stimulated A431 lysate (10 - 2.5 µg/lane). Blocking reagents used during the blocking and antibody incubation steps are indicated on top. NFDM = nonfat dry milk.

Bløk® reagents enable Coomassie blue staining of membrane after immunodetection. A blot containing freshly prepared samples of A431 cell lysates (lanes 2 - 4) and old samples (lanes 5 - 6), normalized to 10 µg of total protein per lane. The blot was blocked with Bløk®-CH probed with anti-phosphotyrosine, clone 4G10, and detected by chemiluminescence (left panel). Lanes 5 and 6 showed significantly lower signal than lanes 3 and 4. Staining the membrane with Coomassie blue right after immunodetection ruled out the possibilities of loading and transfer errors.

**Bløk® reagents perform well with diverse antibodies and lysates**



| Description      | Detection Method            | Qty           | Catalogue No. |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bløk®-CH Reagent | Chemiluminescence detection | 500 mL/bottle | WBAVDCH01     |
| Bløk®-FL Reagent | Fluorescence detection      | 500 mL/bottle | WBAVDFL01     |
| Bløk®-PO Reagent | Phosphoprotein detection    | 500 mL/bottle | WBAVDP001     |

# Antibodies for Western blotting

Merck Millipore offers an extensive, focused portfolio of antibodies and immunoassays. With the expertise of Upstate®, Chemicon® and Calbiochem®, Merck Millipore provides validated products with breadth and depth, backed by excellent service and support, in major research areas:

- Cell Signaling
- Cell Structure and Migration
- Neuroscience
- Stem Cell Biology
- Epigenetics and Gene Regulation
- Cancer
- Toxicity
- Metabolism
- Inflammation and Immunology



Browse our entire selection of antibodies and assays at:  
[www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies](http://www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies)

## Ordering information for select highly published antibodies\*

| Research Focus Area | Antibody Description                                | Catalogue No. |
|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Neuroscience        | Anti-Glutamate Receptor 2, extracellular, clone 6C4 | MAB397        |
| Cancer              | Anti-p62 (Sequestosome-1), clone 11C9.2             | MABC32        |
| Epigenetics         | Anti-acetyl-Histone H3                              | 06-599        |
| Cell Structure      | Anti-Actin, clone C4                                | MAB1501       |
| Signaling           | Anti-IRS1, clone 4.2.2                              | 05-1085       |

\*View complete antibody portfolio at: [www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies](http://www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies)

# Detection: Chemiluminescent Westerns

## SignalBoost™ immunoreaction enhancer

Detecting proteins in a Western can be difficult for multiple reasons (low protein abundance, low affinity antibody, epitope availability, etc.). SignalBoost™ Immunoreaction Enhancer can amplify your signals so you can get your data more quickly and spend less time troubleshooting.



### How does SignalBoost™ enhancer work?

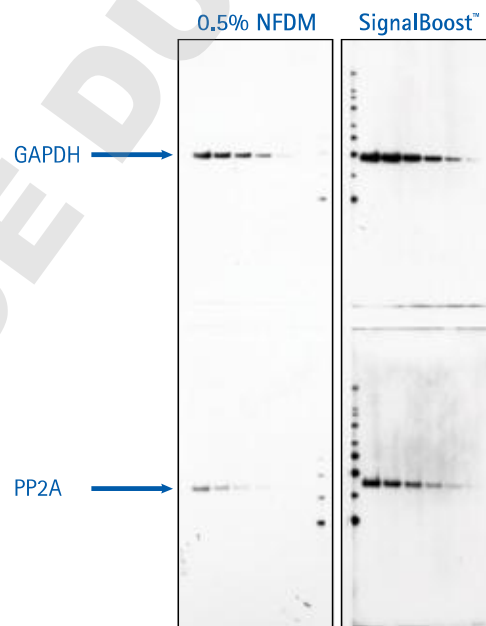
When added during the primary and secondary antibody incubations steps of Western blotting, the enhancer increases the binding efficiency of the antibodies to their target epitopes, increasing the signal intensity on the Western blot.

### Key Benefits

- Enhanced signals in immunoblots or dot blots
- Cost savings of antibodies. Use only 10% of the antibody used for a typical Western blot and achieve comparable signal intensity
- Works well for any detection method: chemiluminescent, fluorescent or colorimetric

### Peer-Reviewed Publications Citing SignalBoost™ Immunoreaction Enhancer

1. Sones W.R., et al., (2010), Cholesterol Depletion Alters Amplitude and Pharmacology of Vascular Calcium-activated Chloride Channels, *Cardiovasc Res.*, 87(3), 476-84.
2. Kadota Y., et al., (2009) Involvement of Mesoderm-specific Transcript in Cell Growth of 3T3-L1 Preadipocytes, *Journal of Health Science*, 55(5), 814-19.
3. Lo S.Z., et al., Tumor Necrosis factor- $\alpha$  Promotes Survival in Methotrexate-exposed Macrophages by an NF- $\kappa$ B-dependent pathway, *Arthritis Res Ther.*, 13(1), R24.



Same blot, stronger signals with SignalBoost™ Enhancer. Two-fold dilutions of A431 cell lysate were resolved & transferred onto Immobilon®-P membrane. Following blocking with 0.5% non-fat dry milk on the SNAP i.d.® system, blots were probed with either anti-GAPDH (top panel, 1:10,000 dilution, Catalogue No. MAB374) or anti-PP2A (bottom panel, 1:200, Catalogue No. 05-421). The antibodies were diluted in either 0.5% non-fat dry milk or SignalBoost™ Immunoreaction Enhancer. After 10 min, the blots were washed with TBST & probed with an appropriate secondary antibody diluted in the indicated diluent. Blots were visualized with Luminata™ Forte Western HRP Substrate (Catalogue No. WBLUF0500). NFDM: Non-fat dry milk; TBST: Tris-buffered saline with Tween-20.

### Description

SignalBoost™ Immunoreaction Enhancer Kit

### Catalogue No.

407207

Learn more at: [www.merckmillipore.com/western](http://www.merckmillipore.com/western)

# Luminata™ Western chemiluminescent HRP substrates



Chemiluminescent HRP\* substrates (also known as ECL reagents) are the most sensitive reagents used in the detection of Western blots.

The Luminata™ Western HRP Substrates are a family of three premixed HRP substrates, which offer several advantages over other detection reagents.

\* horseradish peroxidase

## Key Benefits

- Broad range of sensitivities
- Premixed for more reproducible signals
- Most sensitive substrates in their class

|                                 | Luminata™ Classico                                      | Luminata™ Crescendo                                  | Luminata™ Forte  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
|                                 |   |  |  |
| <b>Unique Feature</b>           | Premixed  | Premixed   | Premixed   |
| <b>Best used for</b>            | Blots where the primary antibody is incubated for ~1 hr | Blot where the primary antibody is incubated > 2 hrs | Blots with overnight primary antibody incubation, or detection of PTM** proteins |
| <b>Detection Range</b>          | ~6 pg   | ~1–3 pg  | ~400 fg  |
| <b>Signal Duration</b>          | 1 hr  | 3 hr   | 3 hr   |
| <b>Stock Solution Stability</b> | 1 yr at 4 °C  | 1 yr at 4 °C   | 1 yr at room temperature   |

\*\*PTM - Post-translationally modified.

## Classification of chemiluminescent HRP substrates

|                        | Approximate Detection Limit* | ~ 6 pg                 | ~ 1 - 3 pg                  | ~ 400 fg          | ~ 0.1 pg                     |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Merck Millipore</b> |                              | Luminata™ Classico     | Luminata™ Crescendo         | Luminata™ Forte   | Visualizer™ Western Blot Kit |
| Pierce                 |                              | Pierce ECL             | SuperSignal® Pico           | SuperSignal® Dura | SuperSignal® Femto           |
| GE Healthcare          |                              | ECL                    | ECL Plus                    |                   | ECL Advance                  |
| Bio-Rad                |                              | Immun-Star™            |                             |                   |                              |
| Invitrogen             |                              | Novex®                 |                             |                   |                              |
| PerkinElmer            |                              | Western Lightning® ECL | Western Lightning® ECL Plus |                   |                              |

\*Detection limits obtained from suppliers' published specifications.



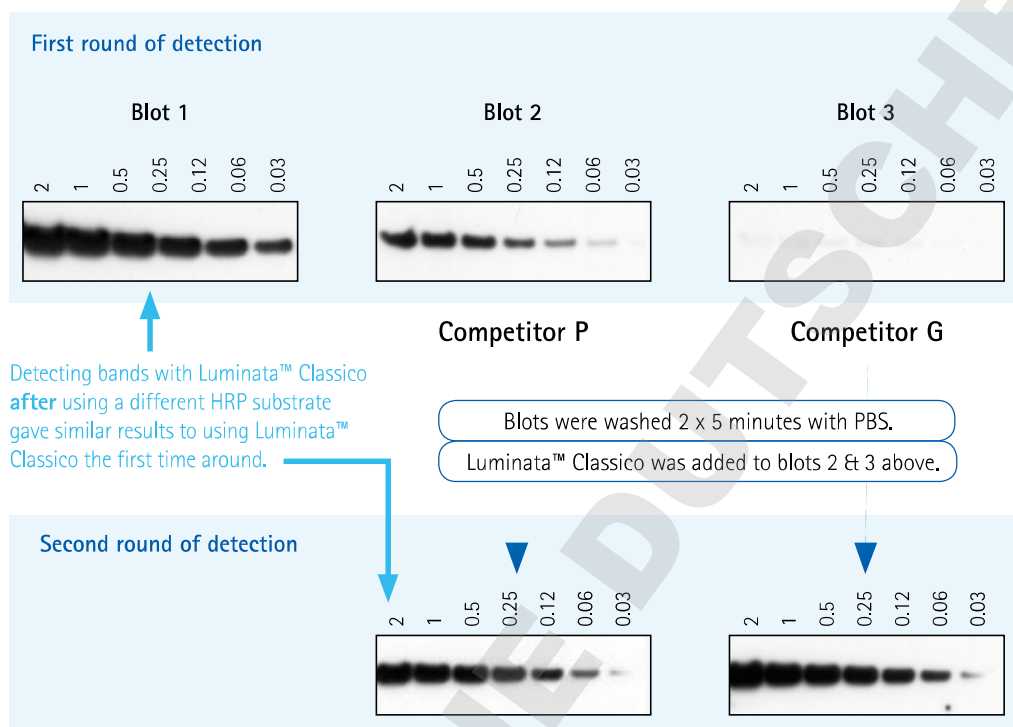
## Test Luminata™ substrates AFTER your regular HRP substrate

We've tested the Luminata™ substrates after using other commercial HRP substrates on the same blot and found no significant differences in band intensity compared to first detecting with Luminata™ substrates. Try it and you may detect bands you were not able to visualize previously.

## Obtain the best Western blots possible using Luminata™ Western HRP substrates

When no bands were detected with Luminata™ Classico Western HRP substrate (boxed blot), two choices were available:

1. Test a more sensitive reagent, such as Luminata™ Crescendo or Forte substrate
2. Increase antibody concentration from 1:10,000 up to 1:1,000



### Re-detection of GAPDH.

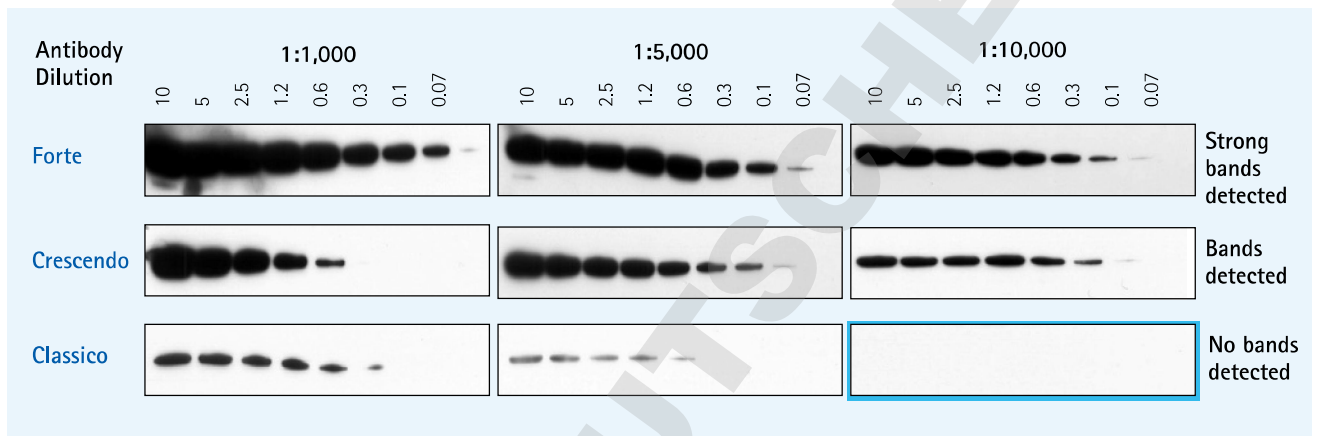
Three Western blots containing a 2-fold dilution series of A431 extract (ranging from 2–0.03 µg) were probed with 1:1000 dilution of anti-GAPDH (Catalogue No. MAB374) and 1:1000 dilution of anti-mouse HRP-conjugated secondary antibody (Catalogue No. AP124P). They were first visualized with the indicated HRP substrate, then washed and re-visualized with Luminata™ Classico substrate. Blots were exposed to X-ray film for 1 minute.

### Selected publications citing Luminata™ substrates

1. Vanderperre B., et al., (2011, April 8), An Overlapping Reading Frame In the PRNP Gene Encodes a Novel Polypeptide Distinct From the Prion Protein. *FASEB J.*
2. Texada M.J., et al., (2011, February 15), Tropomyosin is an Interaction Partner of the Drosophila Coiled Coil Protein yuri gagarin. *Exp Cell Res.* 317(4), 474–87.
3. Xu S., et al., (2011, March 10), Cell Density Regulates *In Vitro* Activation of Heart Valve Interstitial Cells. *Cardiovasc Pathol.*
4. Quentien M.H., et al., (2010, December 21), Truncation of PITX2 Differentially Affects its Activity on Physiological Targets. *J Mol Endocrinol*, 46(1), 9–19.
5. Fujimori K., Amano F., (2011, April), Niacin Promotes Adipogenesis by Reducing Production of Anti-adipogenic PGF(2α) Through Suppression of C/EBPβ-activated COX-2 Expression. *Prostaglandins Other Lipid Mediat.* 94(3–4), 96–103.

**Using higher sensitivity HRP substrates produced the best results and was advantageous in three respects:**

- Better results:** It produced stronger bands for a more quantitative blot (compare the increase in band intensities for Luminata™ Crescendo & Forte substrates at 1:10,000 dilution).
- Faster:** It took only 10 minutes to wash blot and add a new substrate relative to the 2.5 hours required to repeat antibody incubations.
- Cheaper:** The HRP substrates are much cheaper than the price of antibodies.



Immunoblots containing the indicated amounts of A431 lysate were probed with different concentrations of anti-GAPDH antibody (Catalogue No. MAB374) indicated in the top row, followed by an appropriate secondary antibody. Bands were visualized using the indicated Luminata™ HRP substrate and exposed to x-ray film for 5 minutes.

| Description                                    | Qty                           | Catalogue No. |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Luminata™ Classico Western HRP Substrate       | 100 mL                        | WBLUC0100     |
|  | 500 mL                        | WBLUC0500     |
| Luminata™ Crescendo Western HRP Substrate      | 100 mL                        | WBLUR0100     |
|  | 500 mL                        | WBLUR0500     |
| Luminata™ Forte Western HRP Substrate          | 100 mL                        | WBLUF0100     |
|  | 500 mL                        | WBLUF0500     |
| Visualizer™ Western Blot Detection Kit, Mouse  | 250 cm <sup>2</sup> membrane  | 64-201SP      |
|  | 1000 cm <sup>2</sup> membrane | 64-201        |
| Visualizer™ Western Blot Detection Kit, Rabbit | 250 cm <sup>2</sup> membrane  | 64-202SP      |
|  | 1000 cm <sup>2</sup> membrane | 64-202        |

# ReBlot™ Plus

## Western blot recycling kit

### Publications citing ReBlot™ Plus: ~2,900

This quick stripping reagent is the product of choice for regenerating Western blots.

### What is ReBlot™ Plus?

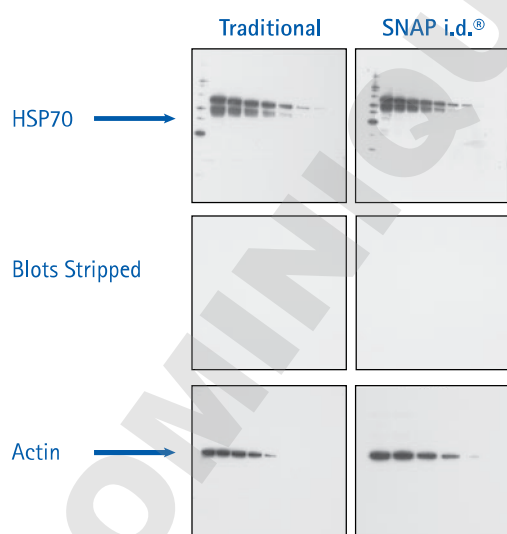
ReBlot™ Plus reagents efficiently strip probed blots of bound antibodies. ReBlot™ Plus reagents are available in two formulations, "Mild" and "Strong".

- Re-Blot™ Plus Mild Stripping Solution - Provides good results on both nitrocellulose and PVDF membranes.
- Re-Blot™ Plus Strong Stripping Solution - Performs when membranes with high signal are to be stripped, or use when Re-Blot™ Plus Mild treatment is not sufficient.



### Key Benefits

- $\beta$ -Mercaptoethanol-free to avoid pungent smells
- Room temperature stripping in only 15 minutes
- Fast reuse of blots for multiple antibody probings
- Non-acidic, for less risk of protein degradation (such as in Edman degradation)



ReBlot™ efficiently strips blots on (right column) or off the SNAP i.d.® system (left column) to allow for fast reprobing with different antibodies.

Two-fold dilutions of A431 lysate were resolved by SDS-PAGE & transferred onto Immobilon®-P. The blots were probed with HSP70 (1:8,000, Catalogue No. MAB374, top row) using either the traditional Western (left column) or SNAP i.d.® system (right column). Following stripping using ReBlot™ Plus Strong for 15 minutes (middle row), the blots were re probed with anti-actin antibody (1:8,000, Catalogue No. MAB1501 bottom row).

ReBlot's™ ability to efficiently strip the blot led to a clean actin blot, even though both primary antibodies share the same anti-mouse secondary antibody.

| Description  | Qty   | Catalogue No. |
|--|-------|---------------|
| ReBlot™ Plus Mild Antibody Stripping Solution, 10x   | 50 mL | 2502          |
| ReBlot™ Plus Strong Antibody Stripping Solution, 10x | 50 mL | 2504          |

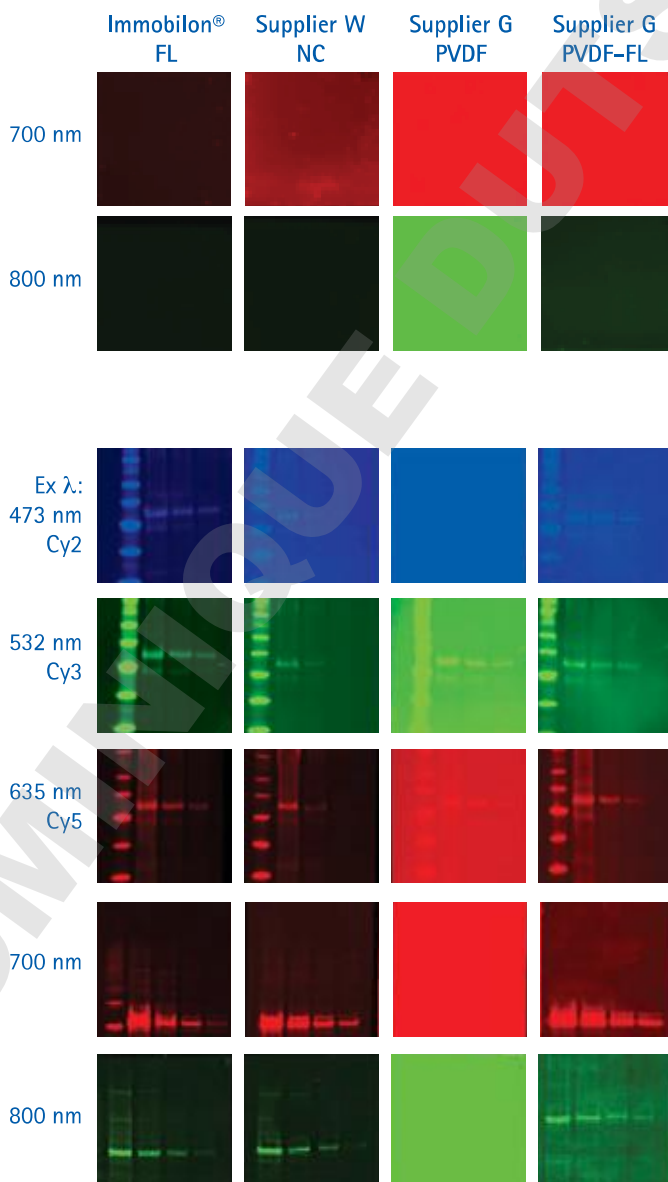
# Detection: Fluorescent Westerns

Fluorescence-based detection of Western blots, while increasing in popularity due to multiplex detection capabilities, requires specialized tools to obtain optimal results. The reagents presented here have been optimized to work together for fast, reproducible fluorescent Westerns.

For more information, visit: [www.merckmillipore.com/flwestern](http://www.merckmillipore.com/flwestern)

TECHNIQUE SPOTLIGHT

## Immobilon®-FL transfer membrane



Publications citing Immobilon®-FL:  
~9,000

### How does Immobilon®-FL membrane work?

This 0.45 µm membrane is the first transfer membrane specifically optimized for fluorescence-based detection of Western blots. Its extremely low background autofluorescence improves sensitivity of all fluorescence detection protocols.

### Key Benefits

- The only membrane that works at near-infrared wavelengths (700-800 nm)
- Strong signals due to higher protein adsorption & retention on the membrane
- Low background to detect even faint bands
- High tensile strength for multiple stripping and reprobing cycles

For more information, visit:

[www.merckmillipore.com/flwestern](http://www.merckmillipore.com/flwestern)

## Bløk®-FL noise cancelling reagent

Blocking the non-specific binding sites on a membrane is critical to avoiding a high background. Protein-based blocking reagents, such as non-fat dry milk, form a layer on the membrane surface that itself can mediate non-specific antibody binding. Furthermore, these blockers can go bad over time either because of blocking protein degradation or microbial growth.

### How does Bløk®-FL reagent improve results?

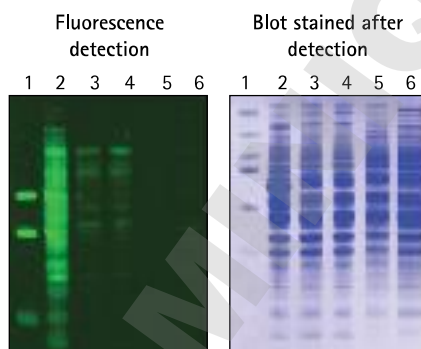
This chemical-based, protein-free blocker decreases background caused by non-specific antibody binding without leaving a thick, sticky layer similar to milk.

### Key Benefits

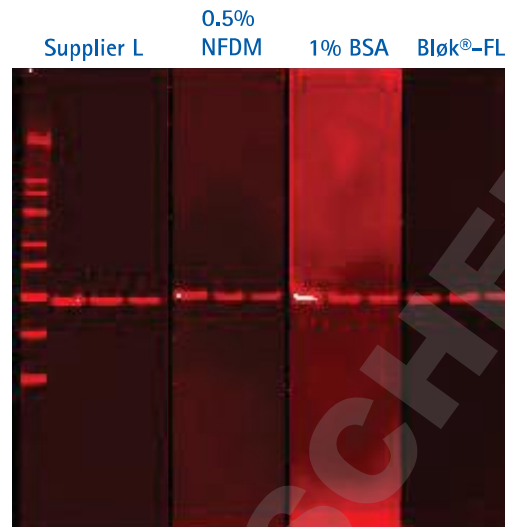
- Specially formulated for reduced background on fluorescent Westerns
- Ready to use straight from the bottle
- Stable at room temperature for 2 years
- Enables colorimetric staining of the blots after immunodetection

### Avoid running a gel just for Coomassie staining

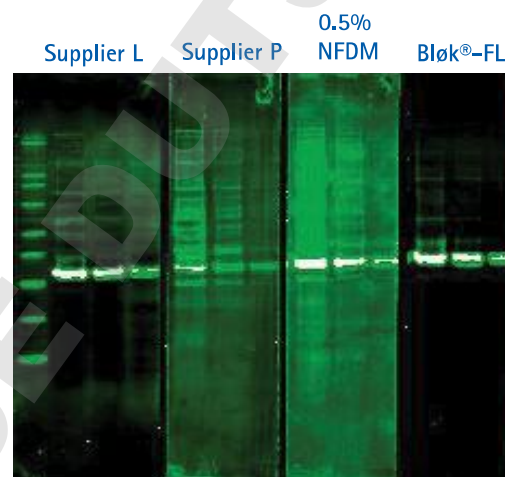
The combination of Bløk® Noise Cancelling Reagents and Immobilon®-PVDF membranes enable membrane staining after immunodetection.



A blot containing different samples of A431 cell lysate, some freshly prepared (lanes 2 - 4) and some old samples (5 - 6), were normalized to 10 µg of total protein per lane (left panel). The blot was blocked with Bløk®-FL and probed with anti-phosphotyrosine, clone 4G10®, and detected by fluorescence. Lanes 5 and 6 showed significantly lower signal than lanes 3 and 4 in both detection methods. Staining with Coomassie blue right after immunodetection ruled out the possibilities of loading and transfer errors.



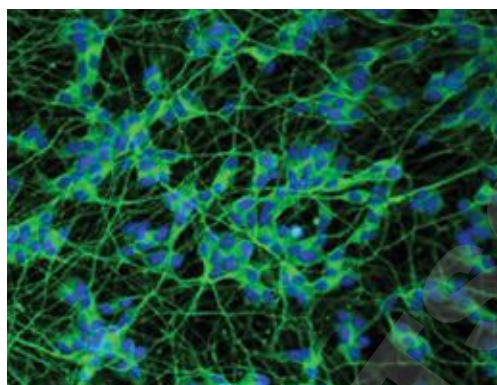
Bløk®-FL reagent provides the best signal-to-noise results. Two Immobilon®-FL blots with dilution series of EGF-stimulated A431 lysate (2-0.5 µg/lane, 12-110) were blocked with indicated blocker and probed with either anti-GAPDH antibody (A) 1:10,000, Catalogue No. MAB374) or anti-Actin antibody (B) (1:2,000, Catalogue No. MAB1501) diluted in the indicated blocker. Following probing with secondary anti-mouse IgG antibody IRDye680 (A) or IRDye800 (B), the blots were scanned on the Odyssey® scanner (LI-COR) after vacuum drying for 1 hour.



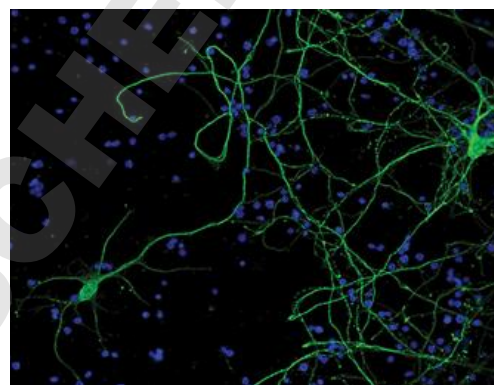
| Description                                 | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Bløk®-FL Reagent for fluorescence detection | 500 mL | WBAVDL01      |
| <b>Immobilon®-FL Membrane, 0.45 µm</b>      |        |               |
| 26.5 cm x 3.75 m                            | 1 roll | IPFL0010      |
| 7 x 8.4 cm                                  | 10/pk  | IPFL07810     |
| 10 x 10 cm                                  | 10/pk  | IPFL10100     |

## Fluorescent conjugated antibodies

Merck Millipore offers a wide range of fluorescent secondary antibodies with demonstrated performance in detection applications as immunofluorescence (IF), immunohistochemistry (IH), Western blot (WB), and flow cytometry. With specificity for whole Ig molecules or antibody fragments such as the Fc or Fab regions, these antibodies are available in a variety of fluorophores, including FITC, DyLight®, Cy dyes, and rhodamine (TRITC). For a complete list of our secondary antibodies and isotype controls, visit: [www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies](http://www.merckmillipore.com/antibodies)



Merged images of differentiated SH-SY5Y cells stained with with Hoechst HCS Nuclear Stain (blue) and Anti-βIII tubulin (Catalogue No. 05-559)/Donkey anti-Mouse FITC conjugated (Catalogue No. AP191F) antibodies (green).



Merged images of rat cortex primary neurons (E18) stained with DAPI (blue) and Pan Neuronal Marker ((Catalogue No. MAB2300)/Goat Anti-Mouse FITC-conjugated (Catalogue No. AP181F) Antibodies (green)).

### Ordering Information for select secondary antibodies

| Description                                   | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Goat anti-Mouse, FITC conjugate               | 2 mg   | AP124F        |
| Donkey anti-Rabbit, Cy3 conjugate             | 500 µg | AP182C        |
| Donkey anti-Mouse, Cy3 conjugate              | 500 µg | AP192C        |
| Donkey anti-Rabbit, Biotin conjugate          | 500 µL | AP182B        |
| Goat anti-Mouse IgG, DyLight® 649 conjugate   | 500 µg | AP181SD       |
| Donkey anti-Mouse IgG, DyLight® 649 conjugate | 500 µg | AP192SD       |
| Goat anti-Rabbit IgG, DyLight® 488 conjugate  | 2 mg   | AP132JD       |
| Goat anti-Rabbit, FITC conjugate              | 2 mg   | AP132F        |
| Donkey anti-Mouse, FITC conjugate             | 500 µg | AP192F        |
| Goat anti-Rabbit, Cy3 conjugate               | 2 mg   | AP132C        |
| Donkey anti-Rabbit, FITC conjugate            | 500 µg | AP182F        |
| Donkey anti-Goat, Cy3 conjugate               | 500 µg | AP180C        |
| Goat anti-Mouse, Cy3 conjugate                | 500 µg | AP124C        |
| Goat anti-Rabbit, FITC conjugate              | 1 mL   | AP307F        |
| Goat anti-mouse, FITC conjugate               | 1 mL   | AP308F        |
| Donkey anti-Guinea Pig, HRP conjugate         | 500 µL | AP193P        |
| Rabbit anti-Sheep, HRP conjugate              | 1.5 mL | AP147P        |

# Detection: Phosphorylated Proteins

Protein phosphorylation is a reversible, post-translational modification that serves to transmit signals through the cell. Detecting phosphorylated proteins via Western blotting is an important step in discovering the upstream regulation, downstream function, crosstalk and feedback mechanisms in most signaling pathways. Merck Millipore provides reagents specifically designed for accurate, sensitive phosphoprotein detection.

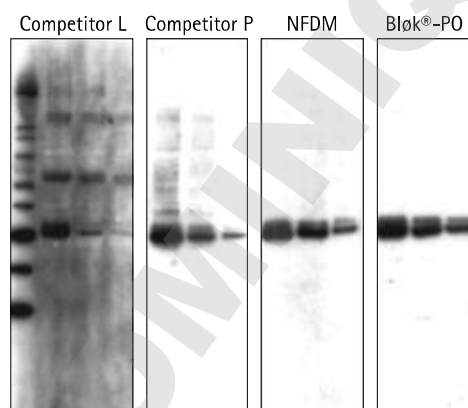
## TECHNIQUE SPOTLIGHT

### Bløk®-PO noise cancelling reagent

Blocking of non-specific protein binding sites on a blot is essential to decreasing the background and obtaining meaningful results. Although milk is the most commonly used blocker, the presence of phosphorylated mammalian proteins in milk can result in a very high background. For that reason, non-protein based blockers are ideal for immunoblotting for phosphorylated proteins.

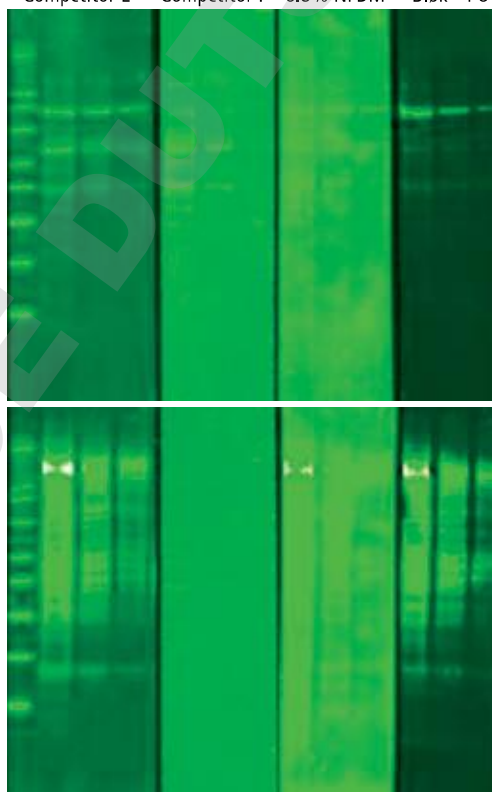
#### How does Bløk®-PO reagent improve results?

This chemical-based blocker contains phosphatase inhibitors to preserve the phosphorylation state of the blotted proteins.



Chemiluminescence detection of pERK in EGF-stimulated A431 lysate (10 – 2.5 µg/lane, Catalogue No. 12-110). Blots were blocked with Bløk®-PO reagent, then probed with anti-pERK antibody (1:10,000, Catalogue No. 05-797R) diluted in Bløk®-PO reagent. Bands were detected using Luminata™ Forte Western HRP substrate (Catalogue No. WBLUF0500). NFDM = Non-fat dry milk.

Competitor L Competitor P 0.5% NFDM Bløk®-PO



Bløk®-PO reagent works best for detection of phosphoproteins.

Fluorescence detection: Dilution series of EGF-stimulated A431 lysate (20-2.5 µg/lane, Catalogue No. 12-110) were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred onto Immobilon®-FL membranes. The blots were blocked with respective blocker, probed with either anti-phosphoserine antibody, clone 4A4 (1:400, Catalogue No. 05-1000) (upper panel) or anti-phosphotyrosine antibody, clone 4G10 (1:400, Catalogue No. 05-321) (lower panel), diluted with respective blocker, followed by anti-mouse IgG antibody IRDye800 conjugated (1:1,000, Catalogue No. 926-32210, LI-COR). The blots were scanned on the Odyssey® scanner (LI-COR) after vacuum drying for 1 hour.

#### Key Benefits

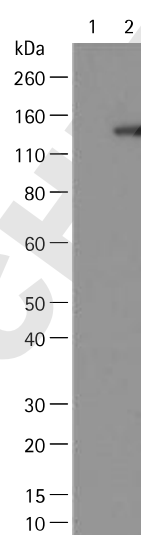
- Protein-free for reduced background and better detection
- Contains phosphatase inhibitors to keep phosphorylated sites intact
- No need to run a second gel for Coomassie staining.
- Stable at room temperature for 1 year
- Formulated for immediate use

## Phosphospecific antibodies

Merck Millipore's extensive portfolio of antibodies includes over 600 validated, phosphospecific antibodies. These antibodies are excellent tools to explore biological pathways and signals that involve phosphorylation.

### Anti-phospho-MYPT1 (Thr696) (Catalogue No. ABS45)

Myosin phosphatase target subunit 1 (MYPT1) regulates the interaction of actin and myosin downstream of the guanosine triphosphatase Rho, which inhibits myosin phosphatase via Rho-kinase. Inhibition of myosin light chain phosphatase, via phosphorylation of MYPT1, results in  $Ca^{2+}$  sensitization of smooth muscle contraction. MYPT1 is localized on stress fibers, and is distributed close to the cell membrane and at cell-cell contacts to regulate myosin phosphatase activity.

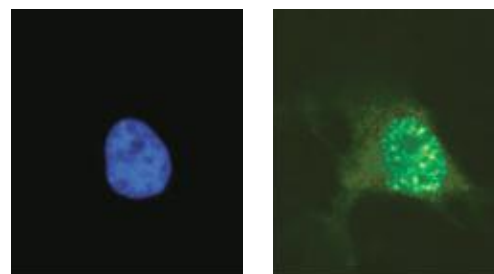


Western blot detection of phospho-MYPT1. Lysates of NIH3T3 cells +/- calyculin/okadaic acid were resolved by electrophoresis, transferred to PVDF membranes and probed with Anti-Phospho-MYPT1 (Thr696) (1:1,000) on the SNAP i.d.<sup>®</sup> system. Proteins were visualized using a Donkey anti-Rbt IgG:HRP conjugate and visualized using chemiluminescence detection.

Arrow indicates Phospho-MYPT1 (Thr696) (~130 kDa).

### Anti-phospho-Histone H2A.X (Ser139), clone JBW301 (Catalogue No. 05-636)

Phosphorylation of histone H2A.X on Ser139 is an early event in cellular response to DNA damage. Phosphorylated H2A.X helps recruit DNA repair machinery to double-strand breaks, eventually recruiting p53, which causes the cell cycle to pause so repair can be completed.



Detection of phospho-Histone H2A.X in cells undergoing DNA damage. Jurkat cells were treated with the cytotoxic agent, etoposide, and stained with Anti-phospho-Histone H2A.X (Ser139, Catalogue No. 05-636), clone JBW301 (green, right panel); DNA stained with DAPI (left panel).

### Ordering information for select phosphospecific antibodies

| Description                                 | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Anti-Phosphotyrosine, clone 4G10            | 100 µg | 05-321        |
| Anti-phospho-Histone H2A.X (Ser139)         | 200 µg | 05-636        |
| Anti-phospho-CREB (Ser133)                  | 100 µL | 06-519        |
| Anti-phospho-Smad2, (Ser465/467)            | 100 µL | AB3849        |
| Anti-phosphoserine, clone 4A4               | 100 µg | 05-1000       |
| Anti-phospho-ACK1 (Tyr284)                  | 100 µL | 09-142        |
| Anti-phospho-ATM (Ser1981), clone 10H11.E12 | 200 µg | 05-740        |
| Anti-phospho-MYPT1 (Thr696)                 | 200 µg | ABS45         |
| Anti-phospho-Src (Tyr416), clone 9A6        | 100 µg | 05-677        |
| Anti-phospho-GluR1 (Ser845), clone EPR2148  | 100 µL | 04-1073       |



# Troubleshooting Western blots

As your Western blotting partner, our technical support team is ready to help you anytime.

Troubleshoot your Westerns using the reference guide below, or for customized assistance, visit:

[www.merckmillipore.com/techservice](http://www.merckmillipore.com/techservice)

## Immunodetection

| Symptom                          | Possible Cause   | Remedy   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Weak signal                      | Improper blocking reagent  | The blocking agent may have an affinity for the protein of interest and thus obscure the protein from detection. Try a different blocking agent and/or reduce both the amount or exposure time of the blocking agent.  |
|                                  | Insufficient antibody reaction time                              | Increase the incubation time.  |
|                                  | Antibody concentration is too low or antibody is inactive        | Multiple freeze-thaws or bacterial contamination of antibody solution can change antibody titer or activity. Increase antibody concentration or prepare it fresh.  |
|                                  | Outdated detection reagents                                      | Use fresh substrate and store properly. Outdated substrate can reduce sensitivity.   |
|                                  | Protein transfer problems  | Optimize protein transfer.   |
|                                  | Dried blot in chromogenic detection                              | If there is poor contrast using a chromogenic detection system, the blot may have dried. Try rewetting the blot in water to maximize the contrast.   |
|                                  | Tap water inactivates chromogenic detection reagents             | Use Milli-Q® water for reagent preparation.  |
|                                  | Azide inhibits HRP   | Do not use azide in the blotting solutions.  |
| Antigen concentration is too low | Load more antigen on the gel prior to the blotting.              |  |
| No signal                        | Antibody concentration too low                                   | Increase concentration of primary and secondary antibodies.  |
|                                  | HRP inhibition   | HRP-labeled antibodies should not be used in solutions containing sodium azide.  |
|                                  | Primary antibody was raised against native protein               | Separate proteins in non-denaturing gel or use antibody raised against denatured antigen.  |
| Uneven blot                      | Fingerprints, fold marks or forceps imprints on the blot         | Avoid touching or folding membrane; use gloves and blunt end forceps.  |
| Speckled background              | Aggregates in the blocking reagent                               | Filter blocking reagent solution through 0.2 µm or 0.45 µm Millex® syringe filter unit.  |
|                                  | Aggregates in HRP-conjugated secondary antibody                  | Filter secondary antibody solution through 0.2 µm or 0.45 µm Millex® syringe filter unit.  |
| High background                  | Insufficient washes  | Increase washing volumes and times. Pre-filter all of your solutions including the transfer buffer using Millex® syringe filter units or Steriflip™ filter units.  |
|                                  | Secondary (enzyme conjugated) antibody concentration is too high | Increase antibody dilution.  |
|                                  | Protein-protein interactions                                     | Use Tween-20 (0.05%) in the wash and detection solutions to minimize protein-protein interactions and increase the signal to noise ratio.  |
|                                  | Immunodetection on Immobilon®-P50 transfer membrane              | Increase the concentration or volume of the blocking agent used to compensate for the greater surface area of the membrane. Persistent background can be reduced by adding up to 0.5M NaCl and up to 0.2% SDS to the wash buffer and extending the wash time to 2 hours. |
|                                  | Poor quality reagents  | Use high quality reagents and Milli-Q® water.  |
|                                  | Crossreactivity between blocking reagent and antibody            | Use different blocking agent or use Tween-20 detergent in the washing buffer.  |
|                                  | Film overexposure  | Shorten exposure time.   |
|                                  | Membrane drying during incubation process                        | Use volumes sufficient to cover the membrane during incubation.  |
|                                  | Poor quality antibodies  | Use high quality affinity purified antibodies.   |
|                                  | Excess detection reagents  | Drain blots completely before exposure.  |

| Symptom   | Possible Cause  | Remedy  |
|---|---|---|
| Persistent background                                   | Non-specific binding  | Use High Salt Wash. (PBS or TBS supplemented with 0.5% NaCl and 0.2% SDS)   |
| High background (rapid immunodetection)                 | Membrane wets out during rapid immunodetection                    | Reduce the Tween-20 (<0.04%) detergent in the antibody diluent.<br>Use gentler agitation during incubations.<br>Rinse the blot in Milli-Q® water after electrotransfer to remove any residual SDS carried over from the gel. Be sure to dry the blot completely prior to starting any detection protocol. |
|   | Membrane was wet in methanol prior to the immunodetection         | Do not pre-wet the membrane.  |
|   | Membrane wasn't completely dry prior to the immunodetection       | Make sure the membrane is completely dry prior to starting the procedure.   |
| Non-specific binding                                    | Primary antibody concentration too high                           | Increase primary antibody dilution.   |
|   | Secondary antibody concentration too high                         | Increase secondary antibody dilution.   |
|   | Antigen concentration too high                                    | Decrease amount of protein loaded on the gel.   |
| Reverse images on film (white bands on dark background) | Too much HRP-conjugated secondary antibody                        | Reduce concentration of secondary HRP-conjugated antibody.  |
| Poor detection of small proteins                        | Small proteins are masked by large blocking molecules such as BSA | Consider casein or a low molecular weight polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP).   |
|   |   | Surfactants such as Tween and Triton X-100 may have to be minimized.  |
|   |   | Avoid excessive incubation times with antibody and wash solution.   |

## Fluorescent detection

| Symptom                 | Possible Cause  | Remedy  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| High overall background | High background fluorescence from the blotting membrane | Use Immobilon®-FL PVDF blotting membrane.   |
| Multiplexing problems   | Experimental design                                     | The two antibodies must be derived from different host species so that they can be differentiated by secondary antibodies of different specificities. Before combining the two primary antibodies, test the banding pattern on separate blots to determine where bands will appear. Use cross-adsorbed secondary antibodies in two-color detection. |
| Speckled background     | Dust/powder particles on the surface of the blot        | Handle blots with powder-free gloves and clean surface of the scanner.  |
| Low signal              | Wet blot  | Drying the blot may enhance signal strength. The blot can be scanned after re-wetting. Do not wrap the blot in plastic/Saran wrap while scanning.   |
|                         | Blot photo-bleached                                     | While fluorescent dyes usually provide long-lasting stable signal, some fluorescent dyes can be easily photo-bleached. To prevent photo-bleaching, protect the membrane from light during secondary antibody incubations and washes, and until the membrane is ready to be scanned. Store developed blots in the dark for subsequent imaging.       |
|                         | Wrong excitation wavelength or emission filter          | Follow dye manufacturers instructions for blot imaging.   |

# Related products:

## Western blotting recipes

### 2X Sample Buffer (2105)

| Component              | Catalogue No. |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 130 mM Tris HCl pH 8.0 | 9310          |
| 20% (v/v) Glycerol     | 4750          |
| 4.6% (w/v) SDS         | 7910          |
| 0.02% Bromophenol blue | 2830          |
| 2% DTT                 | 3860          |

### 8X Resolving Gel Buffer: 100 mL

| Component               | Catalogue No. |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 0.8 g SDS (add last)    | 7910          |
| 36.3 g Tris base (=3 M) | 9210          |

Adjust pH to 8.8 with concentrated HCl

### 4X Stacking Gel Buffer: 100 mL

| Component                 | Catalogue No. |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 0.4 g SDS (add last)      | 7910          |
| 6.05 g Tris base (=0.5 M) | 9210          |

Adjust pH to 6.8

### 10X Running Buffer: 1 L

| Component                  | Catalogue No. |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 30.3 g Tris base (=0.25 M) | 9210          |
| 144 g Glycine(=1.92 M)     | 4810          |
| 10 g SDS (= 1%, add last)  | 7910          |

Do not adjust pH!

### 10X Transfer Buffer: 1 L (Catalogue No. 9000, ready to use)

| Component                  | Catalogue No. |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 30.3 g Tris base (=0.25 M) | 9210          |
| 144 g Glycine(=1.92 M)     | 4810          |

pH should be 8.3, do not adjust

### Wash Buffer

| Component                         | Catalogue No. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| OmniPur® 10X PBS, Premixed Powder | 6508          |

## Immobilon® transfer membranes

| Description                              |                  | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|--|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Immobilon®-P: PVDF 0.45 µm               | 7 × 8.4 cm       | 50/pk  | IPVH07850     |
|  | 26.5 cm × 3.75 m | 1 roll | IPVH00010     |
| Immobilon®-FL: PVDF 0.45 µm              | 7 × 8.4 cm       | 10/pk  | IPFL07810     |
|  | 26.5 cm × 3.75 m | 1 roll | IPFL00010     |
| Immobilon®-P <sup>SO</sup> : PVDF 0.2 µm | 7 × 8.4 cm       | 50/pk  | ISEQ07850     |
|  | 26.5 cm × 3.75 m | 1 roll | ISEQ00010     |

## SNAP i.d.® 2.0 systems

| Description   | Catalogue No. |
|---|---------------|
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Mini (7.5 × 8.4 cm)                                 | SNAP2MINI     |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Midi (8.5 × 13.5 cm)                                | SNAP2MIDI     |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - MultiBlot (4.5 × 8.4 cm)                            | SNAP2MB3      |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Mini and Midi (7.5 × 8.4 cm and 8.5 × 13.5 cm)      | SNAP2MM       |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Mini and MultiBlot (7.5 × 8.4 cm and 4.5 × 8.4 cm)  | SNAP2MB1      |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Midi and MultiBlot (8.5 × 13.5 cm and 4.5 × 8.4 cm) | SNAP2MB2      |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Single IHC  | SNAP2IHC      |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 System - Double IHC  | SNAP2IHC2     |

## SNAP i.d.® 2.0 consumables

| Description                                      | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|--|--------|---------------|
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Mini Blot Holders (7.5 × 8.4 cm)  | 100/pk | SNAP2BHMN0100 |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Midi Blot Holders (8.5 × 13.5 cm) | 100/pk | SNAP2BHMD0100 |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 MultiBlot Holders (4.5 × 8.4 cm)  | 50/pk  | SNAP2BHM050   |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 IHC Slide Holders                 | 24/pk  | SNAP2SH       |

## SNAP i.d.® 2.0 accessories

| Description   | Qty   | Catalogue No. |
|---|-------|---------------|
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Antibody Collection Tray               | 20/pk | SNAPABTR      |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Blot Roller                            | 1/pk  | SNAP2RL       |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Mini Blot Holding Frames (double pack) | 2/pk  | SNAP2FRMN02   |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Midi Blot Holding Frames (double pack) | 2/pk  | SNAP2FRMD02   |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Mini Blot Holding Frame (single pack)  | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRMN01   |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 Midi Blot Holding Frame (single pack)  | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRMD01   |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 MultiBlot Holding Frame (single pack)  | 1/pk  | SNAP2BHMB050  |
| SNAP i.d.® 2.0 IHC Frame                              | 1/pk  | SNAP2FRIHC    |

## Bløk® noise cancelling reagents

| Description      | Detection Method                 | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Bløk®-CH Reagent | Chemiluminescence Detection      | 500 mL | WBAVDCH01     |
| Bløk®-FL Reagent | Fluorescence Detection           | 500 mL | WBAVDFLO1     |
| Bløk®-PO Reagent | Phosphorylated Protein Detection | 500 mL | WBAVDP001     |



[www.merckmillipore.com/western](http://www.merckmillipore.com/western)

## Luminata™ Western HRP substrates

| Description                                | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|--|--------|---------------|
| Luminata™ Classico Western HRP Substrates  | 500 mL | WBLUC0500     |
| Luminata™ Crescendo Western HRP Substrates | 500 mL | WBLUR0500     |
| Luminata™ Forte Western HRP Substrates     | 500 mL | WBLUF0500     |

## Western blotting enhancing reagents

| Description                              | Qty    | Catalogue No. |
|--|--------|---------------|
| SignalBoost™ Immunoreaction Enhancer Kit | 400 mL | 407207        |



### Protein Blotting Handbook: Tips and Tricks

(Lit. # TP001ENEU)  
With the publication of the sixth edition of the Protein Blotting Handbook, Merck Millipore continues to keep researchers up to date on innovations in protein detection.

### Introduction to Antibodies and Their Applications

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