

PCRboost™ Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I store PCRboost?

A: PCRboost should be stored at room temperatures between 15°C to 25°C.

Q: I accidentally put the PCRboost in the freezer. Will it still work?

A: PCRboost should be stored at room temperature for best performance. Once frozen, a precipitate may form in the liquid, but the function of the PCRboost is not affected. Mix thoroughly before use and store at room temperature.

Q: What oligos can I use with PCRboost?

A: Any oligos will work with PCRboost. Follow your standard PCR reaction protocol and amplification conditions.

Q: What is the limit for amplicon size when using PCRboost?

A: PCRboost works for amplicons between 50 bp to 5 kb.

Q: How much PCRboost should I use in my PCR reaction?

A: Simply substitute PCRboost for water to bring your reaction up to volume. For example, if you normally add 20 µl of water per reaction, just add 20 µl of PCRboost instead.

Q: Will I have to adjust my protocol or change the annealing temperature of my primers in order to use PCRboost?

A: No. Simply add PCRboost to your PCR cocktail to bring up to volume and run your standard protocol.

Q: Can I decrease the amount of template DNA or RNA used in my reactions?

A: Yes. PCRboost enhances PCR reactions with as little as 10 pg of genomic DNA or 50-100 ng of RNA.

Q: What is the shelf life of PCRboost?

A: PCRboost has a shelf life of 6 months.

Q: Can I use PCRboost in my first-strand RT-PCR reaction?

A: It is recommended that PCRboost be added to the second-strand RT-PCR reaction. In some cases, however, it may also be advantageous to supplement the first-strand reaction with PCRboost instead of water, particularly when attempting to amplify rare transcripts.

Q: Does PCRboost work with any Taq polymerase?

A: PCRboost works with the majority of commercially available Taq polymerases.

Q: Do I have to remove the PCRboost from my PCR product for downstream applications?

A: No. PCRboost does not interfere or inhibit downstream applications, so there is no need to purify the amplified product..

Q: Will anything in PCRboost precipitate during an ethanol precipitation of my PCR product?

A: You will notice a white pellet (DNA and PCRboost components) after ethanol precipitation. Resuspending the pellet in buffer or water redissolves the pellet and does not interfere with performance of the DNA.

Q: Will PCRboost affect an OD_{260/280} reading?

A: In case a PCR reaction product containing PCRboost needs to be read by UV spectroscopy, it is highly recommended to blank the spectrophotometer against a PCRboost sample prior to taking the OD measurements.

Q: Does PCRboost help amplification of material containing inhibitors?

A: PCRboost has been shown to amplify DNA in presence of PCR inhibitory factors, resulting in 30-50% better amplification.

Q: Does PCRboost affect the fidelity of polymerases and the accuracy of the final product?

A: PCRboost does not change the fidelity of polymerases nor does it have an effect on the accuracy of the amplicon sequence. For high fidelity amplification, we recommend the use of a proofreading polymerase.

Q: Can PCRboost be used for multiplex PCR or amplifying GC-rich templates?

A: PCRboost can be used for multiplex PCR and we are currently analyzing its ability to amplify GC-rich templates. Please refer to our website (www.biomatrix.com) for the latest updates.

Q: Will PCRboost work with polymerases other than Taq polymerase?

A: We are currently working on formulations for various downstream applications, including other polymerases. Please refer to our website (www.biomatrix.com) for the latest updates on current and future product information.