

Procedure:

Critical Steps:

- Swirl agarose to make sure that all is melted (but not too vigorously to avoid bubbles)

The following is for a 1% Gel

- c **Measure 0.5 g agarose and add to flask**
- c **Add 50 mL 1X TAE to the flask**
- c **Cover flask with saran wrap (should be on top of the microwave)**
- c **Microwave the agarose for 1:00, or until all agarose is dissolved and the solution is completely clear and bubbling**
 - o If the agarose is still suspended/undissolved, microwave for additional 10-20 seconds
 - o CAREFUL, bottle will be extremely hot, watch out for steam coming from the bottle, hot gloves should be by the microwave
- c **Obtain gel tray, box, and comb, then rinse with dH₂O**
 - o Comb size depends on experiment
- c **Place gel tray in gel box sideways – the tray's rubber gasket should make a watertight seal against the gel box**
 - o Make sure the gasket hasn't derailed
- c **Insert gel comb**
- c **Pour hot agarose solution carefully into mold**
- c **Use a sterile pipette tip to sweep bubbles away from the important parts of the gel, then cover the gel while it cools to prevent debris from falling in**
- c **Prepare DNA samples with dye & appropriate volume (at least 200 ng for visualization, avoid more than 1 ug if you need to distinguish between similarly sized fragments)**
- c **When agarose has completely solidified, gently pull tray out of box, rotate tray, then re-insert tray so the wells are on the black side**
- c **Pour 1X TAE into the box until it just covers the lanes**
- c **Record locations of samples, load accordingly, and run at 100 V for 50 mins (alternatively, 80V for 60-75 mins)**
- c **Soak in EtBr bath for 20-30 mins then image according to posted instructions**