

Cutting of gel bands

If you have gels from which you like individual bands to be identified by MS, you have 2 options. First, you can send (or bring) the gel to the facility, and we cut out the band(s) that you indicate. Alternatively, you can cut out gel bands yourself. In this second scenario, please take precautions to prevent contamination (keratins, etc). Please use the following guidelines.

- Wear gloves at all times
- Place the gel on a clean glass plate, on the bench or (even better) a light box
- Keeping the gel moist will ease cutting and transfer
- Use a new scalpel knife
- Cut bands tightly; including unstained gel will only increase background interference in MS analysis
- Cut individual bands in cubes of ~1 x 1mm
- Transfer the gel pieces to an eppendorf tube (1 band per tube)
- After cutting, gel bands can be kept for months at -20 before MS analysis without adverse effect