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## **PRODUCT INFORMATION**

Product VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium with DAPI

Catalog No. H-1500

Amount 10 ml

Concentration of DAPI 1.5 µg/ml

Storage Conditions Refrigerate in the dark

This lot has been tested for photobleaching retardance with qualitative and quantitative methods using fluorescent microscopy.

VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium is a unique, stable formula for preserving fluorescence which hardens after coverslipping to facilitate handling and storage. VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium prevents rapid photobleaching of fluorescein, rhodamine, Texas Red®, and other fluorescent reagents such as Cy3™, Alexa Fluor® 488, and Alexa Fluor® 594.\* Sections mounted in VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium retain fluorescence for several weeks.

VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium is supplied in a bottle fitted with a cone-seal cap. A cap fitted with a drop dispenser pipet is also included. The cone-seal cap can be replaced with the drop dispenser cap for routine use and during storage. Although the pipet bulb is made of inert materials, it is suggested that once the drop dispenser cap has been secured on the bottle, the bottle should be stored in an upright position.

To mount tissues or cells on a slide, dispense one drop of VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium onto the section. Then coverslip and allow VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium to disperse over the entire section. Applying an excess of mounting medium is not recommended. The pipet supplied with the product is designed to deliver small drop volumes of approximately 25 µl.

\* VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ is not recommended for use with Cy2™, which may dissipate in the section over time.

**(over)**



VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium dries completely when slides are cover-slipped. Sections may be viewed immediately using a fluorescent microscope. It takes approximately 15 minutes for the coverslip to become immobilized and overnight (at 4 °C) to completely harden. If air bubbles form, or the DAPI counterstain intensity decreases during prolonged storage, remove coverslip and remount. Coverslips can be easily removed after hardening by soaking in PBS overnight. Mounted slides should be stored at 4 °C protected from light.

This special formulation of VECTASHIELD® Hard•Set™ Mounting Medium contains 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) and is intended to be used to counterstain DNA. This product is designed to be used for *in situ* hybridization techniques or for other procedures requiring fluorescent labeling of DNA. DAPI excites at about 360 nm and emits at about 460 nm when bound to DNA, producing a blue fluorescence. DAPI may also stain RNA but displays greater selectivity for binding DNA over RNA.

#### **Notes:**

When mounting thick sections, the mounting medium may not harden properly. Use of non-hardening VECTASHIELD® Mounting Medium (Cat. No. H-1000) may be preferred.

If cells are grown in chamber slides remove the hydrophobic gasket before mounting or use a coverslip that fits within the gasket.

The nuclear counterstains, DAPI and PI, will diffuse out of nuclei over time if the cells have been fixed in 100% methanol. In this case non-hardening VECTASHIELD® Mounting Medium may be preferred.

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Texas Red, Alexa Fluor are trademarks of Molecular Probes  
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