

# 1 - Making Slides

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## Introduction

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The aim of making slides is to make a thin section of agarose which will immobilise the cells for visualising, and provide a thin flat surface so the cells are only in one dimension giving a clearer image.

## Materials

- › Slides
- › Cover Slips
- › 1% Agarose made with **water**
- › Cells (OD ~ 0.6)

## Procedure

### Making the slides

1. Boil the agarose in the microwave until there it is all melted/ dissolved
2. Put two cover slips on the approximately 1cm apart
3. Using the **P1000** pipette 200ul of molten agarose between the two cover slips
4. Quickly put another cover slip over the agarose and push down until the cover slip rests on the other two cover slips leaving a thin section of agarose in between. Dont push down too hard for too long however because this will curve the agarose making it more difficult to visualise.
5. The slips can now be left for a couple of hours if necessary, but should be ready after about 5 minutes, once the agarose has set. Pull off any agarose that has squigged out. Wiggle the top cover slip around until it has been loosened relative to the agarose underneath. Carefully slide it off, trying not to wrinkle the agarose as you do so. Pull the other two cover slips off and keep one and use it to cut off any parts of the agarose that are sticking up. Don't leave the gel exposed llike this for too long otherwise it will dry out.
6. Take 3ul of your cells and pipette them onto a flat part of the agarose. Place a cover slip over the top and label. It is now ready to be visualised.