

## Ponceau S Stain for Western blots

This is a rapid and reversible staining method for locating protein bands on Western blots. Sensitivity is somewhat less than Coomassie blue and produces reddish pink stained bands; minor components may be difficult to resolve. The stain is useful because it does not appear to have a deleterious effect on the sequencing of blotted polypeptides and is therefore one method of choice for locating polypeptides on Western blots for blot-sequencing. The stain binds strongly to nylon-based filter media but is fine for nitrocellulose and PVDF membranes. Incubate the membrane for up to an hour in staining solution with gentle agitation. Rinse the membrane in distilled water until the background is clean. The stain can be completely removed from the protein bands by continued washing. Stain solution can be re-used up to 10 times.

### Ponceau S Staining Solution (0.1%(w/v) Ponceau S in 5%(v/v) acetic acid)

1g Ponceau S  
50ml acetic acid  
Make up to 1L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O

Store at 4°C. Do not freeze. Alternative recipe for stain solution 0.2%(w/v) Ponceau S in 3%(v/v) acetic acid.