

WHAT YOU NEED

Canon PowerShot 620-650 or SX110-120 IS with 1 or 2 GB memory card and power adapter to use with mains electricity

KT camera hood, with camera cradle and orange filter

UVItec or UVP uv transilluminator

UVItec facemask (IMPORTANT)

Fluorescent ruler

1. Place the gel in its uv transparent tray in the centre of the transilluminator; for polyacrylamide gels attached to a glass plate, ensure that it is laid gel side down
2. Lay the fluorescent rule alongside the gel
3. Switch the transilluminator to full power

SAFETY NOTE:

Make sure your eyes are protected from the uv lamp!

4. Switch on the camera

5. Set to Tv (shutter priority) and to 1 sec exposure
6. Set to close up (press the control ring at the bottom to display a flower)
7. Disable flash (by pressing the top of the ring)
8. Press 'FUNC SET' and step down two places to 'Drive Mode'. Step right to 2 second delay
9. Place the camera hood over the gel
10. Place the camera in the foam cradle. Make sure the orange filter is in place
11. Select a zoom setting to cover the selected area of gel – you may not be able to focus if you zoom in too close
12. Depress the shooting button halfway to focus the camera
13. Depress completely to take the shot
14. Check the exposure and adjust the exposure time if necessary to obtain better shots
15. Transfer the image to a computer and store in a folder¹

Notes:

The default resolution setting produces files which are unnecessarily large for most purposes. To create smaller files, press 'FUNC SET' and step down seven places. Step right to 'S'. Alternatively, you can reduce the size of the file using a program such as ImageJ <http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/>

¹ You will need a USB cable or a card reader for this