

# Loading 2D Gels into a FlapCassette 2D

**Always .**

- **Wear powder-free disposable gloves.**
- **Do not touch or contaminate the gel.**
- **Handle by the film margins only.**

1. Open the FlapCassette 2D ([gelcompany cat. # 1003-40](#)) and place it on a clean paper towel on the bench, hinge down, spacers up, yellow plastic frame on the left hand side. Clean the glass thoroughly with 0.1 % (w/v) SDS-water and dry it and the plastic frame completely with lint-free tissue.
2. Take a strip of double-side adhesive tape from the plastic sheet and stick it on the upper edge of the yellow plastic frame (Fig. 1).

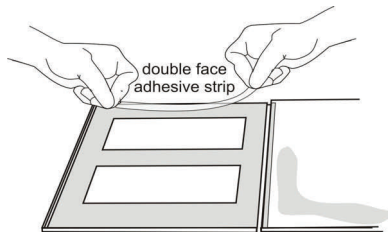


Fig 1

3. Apply a streak of distilled water (500  $\mu$ L) onto the glass plate along the closure (fig 2).

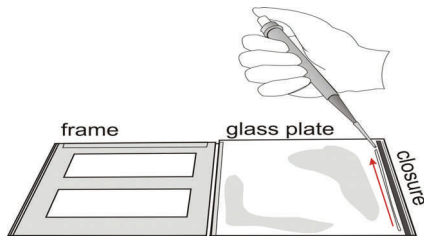


Fig 2

4. Cut a gel package open with scissors, take a gel out, remove the coversheet, and put the gel onto the glass plate of FlapCassette with the plastic backing facing-up (fig 3). Align the edge of the gel with the closure of the glass plate. The backing will overlap the spacer at the closure.

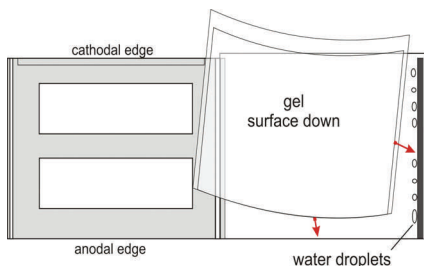
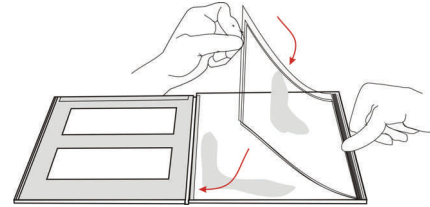


Fig 3

5. Holding the right edge down on the spacer with the thumb, slowly, flex the gel downward toward the glass plate from the closure towards the hinge (Fig. 4).

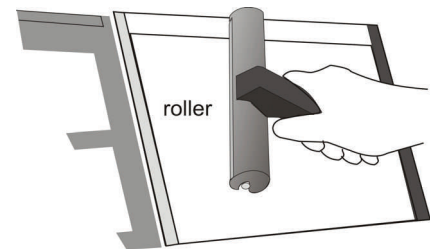
Ensure that the bottom (anodal) edge of the gel is flush with the bottom edge of the glass plate. The film margins (not the gel) must lie on top of the side spacers with the gel snugly between the spacers.

Fig. 4



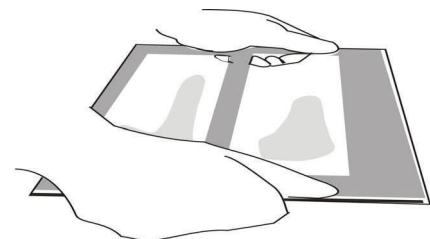
6. Use the roller ([gelcompany cat # 1003-90](#)) to remove air bubbles between the gel and the glass (Fig 5). Press firmly against the support film and roll over the entire gel.

Fig. 5



7. Remove the protection wax paper strip from the applied adhesive tape. With the cassette flat on the bench, close the cassette, snap the plastic frame to the glass plate and press the closure edges tightly together along the entire side of the cassette. Double check the tight closure by holding the cassette up (Fig. 6).

Fig.6



8. Press the edge of the film backing tighter to the plastic frame by sliding a bent spatula tip along the inner edge of the frame. In this way the film backing is fixed firmly to the cassette, by the adhesive tape. This greatly facilitates pipetting of the LM-agarose overlay and keeps the film backing from forming waves.

9. To facilitate gelling of the LM-agarose place the cassettes with the gels into a refrigerator for at least 15 minutes.

*This protocol forms part of a series that describe the use of [gelcompany](#) products in the 2D-gel workflow. For other protocols visit our website.*