

Sectioning mouse embryos for mRNA detection

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Equipment

- ◆ Microtome
- ◆ Slide warmer

Method

- 1 Trim the wax cube to a truncated pyramidal shape, such that the surface to be cut is reduced to an appropriate size.
- 2 Attach to the microtome, align relative to the blade, and set the section thickness to 7 μm .
- 3 Cut ribbons and place on filter paper, maintaining the order of sections.
- 4 Label the series of slides, place them on a slide warmer at 40 °C, and put 2–3 ml 10% ethanol on each. The number of slides per series is determined on the basis of the embryonic stage.

Stage (d)	6.5	7.5	8.5	10.5	12.5	15.5	17.5
No. slides per series	2	3	3-4	5-6	8-10	11-13	14-18

- 5 Remove a single section from the ribbon.
- 6 Float this section onto a slide.
- 7 Place the next section onto the next slide (steps 5 and 6) for the rest of this series. Then repeat until this first series of slides is filled with sections.
- 8 Put subsequent sections on a new series of slides until all the sections have been mounted.