

Formvar Coating Grids

A. Cleaning Grids

- 1) Place grids in a beaker, add chloroform, sonicate.
Wash chloroform 3x total.
- 2) Add acetone. Wash 3x total. Sonicate EA time.
- 3) Clean out acetone and spread the grids into a small petri dish with filter paper.
- 4) Continue to next section when grids are dry.

B. Formvar Coating

- 1) Wash large petri dish/bowl thoroughly --- fill with ddH₂O (~15") and place on heater at Low, turning to off to avoid too high a temperature. Run Kimwipe across top of H₂O.
- 2) Fill slide holder with 70-99% EtOH.
- 3) Clean slide thoroughly. Dip in EtOH. Wipe with Kimwipe and then with lens paper.
Make certain there are no spots and no junk from the frosted end on the slides.

C. Using Formvar

- 1) Take off parafilm from upright tube--- if formvar is thick, add Ethylene Dichloride.
- 2) With bulb, fill top container to ~30 ml of covering beaker.
- 3) Put slide in formvar.
- 4) Release stopcock so formvar goes down slowly.
- 5) Blot dry bottom of slide. Dry slide in light. Cut along top, sides and bottom of slide with scalpel blade.
- 6) Breathe on slide and dip it into the heated ddH₂O perpendicular to the water surface (want silver side).
- 7) Place grids on formvar--- all copper side down or all dull side down.
- 8) Coat slide with parafilm.
- 9) Align slide with formvar coat. Pick up grids.
- 10) Put in covered petri dish with filter paper on bottom.
- 11) Dry overnight.
- 12) Ready for carbon coating.

Remember to reseal all apertures with parafilm and keep all covers on apparatus --- to prevent dust contamination.