

## HisTrap HP, 1 ml and 5 ml

### Instructions for Use

HisTrap™ HP is a ready to use HiTrap™ column, prepacked with precharged Ni Sepharose™ High Performance. This prepacked column is ideal for preparative purification of histidine-tagged recombinant proteins by immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography (IMAC).

The special design of the column, together with the high-performance matrix of the Ni Sepharose medium, provides fast, simple, and easy separations in a convenient format.

Ni Sepharose High Performance has low nickel ( $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ) ion leakage and is compatible with a wide range of additives used in protein purification.

HisTrap HP columns can be operated with a syringe, peristaltic pump, or liquid chromatography system such as ÄKTA™.

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Please read these instructions carefully before using the products.

## Intended use

The products are intended for research use only, and shall not be used in any clinical or *in vitro* procedures for diagnostic purposes.

## Safety

For use and handling of the products in a safe way, please refer to the Safety Data Sheets.

# 1 Product description

## HiTrap column characteristics

The columns are made of biocompatible polypropylene that does not interact with biomolecules.

The columns are delivered with a stopper at the inlet and a snap-off end at the outlet. [Table 1, on page 3](#) lists the characteristics of HiTrap columns.



**Fig 1.** HiTrap, 1 mL column.



**Fig 2.** HiTrap, 5 mL column

**Note:** *HiTrap columns cannot be opened or refilled.*

**Note:** *Make sure that the connector is tight to prevent leakage.*

**Table 1.** Characteristics of HiTrap columns

Column volume (CV)	1 mL	5 mL
Column dimensions	0.7 × 2.5 cm	1.6 × 2.5 cm
Column hardware pressure limit	5 bar (0.5 MPa)	5 bar (0.5 MPa)

**Note:** The pressure over the packed bed varies depending on a range of parameters such as the characteristics of the chromatography medium, sample/liquid viscosity and the column tubing used.

## Supplied Connector kit with HiTrap column

Connectors supplied	Usage	No. supplied
Union 1/16" male/ luer female	For connection of syringe to HiTrap column	1
Stop plug female, 1/16"	For sealing bottom of HiTrap column	2, 5 or 7

## Chromatography medium properties

HiTrap HP 1 ml and 5 ml columns are prepacked with Ni Sepharose High Performance, which consists of 34  $\mu\text{m}$  highly cross-linked agarose beads with an immobilized chelating group. The medium has then been charged with  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ -ions.

Several amino acids, for example histidine, form complexes with many metal ions. Ni Sepharose High Performance selectively binds proteins if suitable complex-forming amino acid residues are exposed on the protein surface.

Additional histidines, such as in the case of (histidine)<sub>6</sub>-tag, increase affinity for  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and generally make the histidine-tagged protein the strongest binder among other proteins in for example an *E. coli* extract.

**Table 2.** HiTrap HP characteristics

Matrix	Highly cross-linked spherical agarose, 6%
Average bead size	34 $\mu\text{m}$
Metal ion capacity	~ 15 $\mu\text{mol Ni}^{2+}$ /ml medium
Dynamic binding capacity <sup>1</sup>	At least 40 mg (histidine) <sub>6</sub> -tagged protein/ml medium

Recommended flow rate	1 ml/min and 5 ml/min for 1 ml and 5 ml column, respectively
Max. flow rates <sup>2</sup>	4 ml/min and 20 ml/min for 1 ml and 5 ml column, respectively
Compatibility during use	Stable in all commonly used buffers, reducing agents, denaturants, and detergents. See <a href="#">Table 3, on page 6</a> .
Chemical stability(for medium without metal ion)	0.01 M HCl, 0.1 M NaOH; tested for one week at 40°C.  1 M NaOH, 70% acetic acid; tested for 12 h. 2% SDS; tested for 1 h. 30% 2-propanol; tested for 30 min.
Avoid in buffers	Chelating agents, e.g., EDTA, EGTA, citrate (see <a href="#">Table 3, on page 6</a> )
pH stability <sup>3</sup> (for medium without metal ion)	
Working range	3 to 12
Cleaning-in-place	2 to 14
Storage	20% ethanol
Storage temperature	4°C to 30°C

<sup>1</sup> Dynamic binding capacity conditions:

Sample: 1 mg/ml (histidine)<sub>6</sub>-tagged pure protein (M<sub>r</sub> 28 000 or 43 000) in binding buffer (Q<sub>B</sub>10% determination) or (histidine)<sub>6</sub>-tagged protein bound from *E. coli* extract

Column volume: 0.25 ml or 1 ml

Flow rate: 0.25 ml/min or 1 ml/min

Binding buffer: 20 mM sodium phosphate, 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, pH 7.4

Elution buffer: 20 mM sodium phosphate, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.5 M imidazole, pH 7.4

**Note:** Dynamic binding capacity is protein-dependent.

<sup>2</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature. For calculation of pressure limits, see [Chapter 9 Adjusting pressure limits in chromatography system software, on page 18](#).

<sup>3</sup> Working range: pH interval where the medium can be handled without significant change in function.

Cleaning-in-place: pH interval where the medium can be subjected to cleaning-in-place without significant change in function.

The Ni<sup>2+</sup>-charged medium is compatible with all commonly used aqueous buffers, reducing agents, denaturants such as 6 M Gua-HCl and 8 M urea, and a range of other additives (see [Table 3, on page 6](#)).

**Table 3.** Ni Sepharose High Performance is compatible with the following compounds up to the concentrations given

Reducing agents <sup>1</sup>	5 mM DTE
	5 mM DTT
	20 mM β-mercaptoethanol
	5 mM TCEP
	10 mM reduced glutathione
Denaturing agents <sup>2</sup>	8 M urea
	6 M Gua-HCl
Detergents	2% Triton™ X-100 (nonionic)
	2% Tween™ 20 (nonionic)
	2% NP-40 (nonionic)
	2% cholate (anionic)
	1% CHAPS (zwitterionic)
Other additives	500 mM imidazole
	20% ethanol
	50% glycerol
	100 mM Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>
	1.5 M NaCl
	1 mM EDTA <sup>3</sup>
	60 mM citrate

Buffer	50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.4
	100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4
	100 mM Tris-acetate, pH 7.4
	100 mM HEPES, pH 7.4
	100 mM MOPS, pH 7.4
	100 mM sodium acetate, pH 4 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ni Sepharose High Performance is compatible with reducing agents. However, for optimal performance, removal of any weakly bound Ni<sup>2+</sup> ions by performing a blank run without reducing agents (as described in Section [Blank run, on page 10.](#)) before applying buffer/sample including reducing agents is recommended. Do not leave HisTrap HP columns with buffers including reducing agents when not in use.

<sup>2</sup> Tested for one week at 40°C.

<sup>3</sup> The strong chelator EDTA has been used successfully in some cases at 1 mM. Generally, chelating agents should be used with caution (and only in the sample, not in the buffers). Any metal-ion stripping may be counteracted by addition of a small excess of MgCl<sub>2</sub> before centrifugation/filtration of the sample. Note that stripping effects may vary with applied sample volume.

## 2 General considerations

### Introduction

This section describes important information that should be considered when using HisTrap HP in order to achieve the best results. The actions for minimizing nickel leakage and discoloring are normally not needed but can be performed for sensitive applications.

### Imidazole concentration

The recommended binding buffer is:

- 20 mM sodium phosphate, 500 mM NaCl, **20 to 40 mM imidazole**, pH 7.4

The imidazole concentration in sample and binding buffer can be further increased if there is a need for higher final purity. If, on the other hand, there is a need for higher yield the imidazole concentration can be lowered (this may result in lower final purity).

## Minimize nickel-ion leakage

- Leakage of Ni-ions from HisTrap HP is very low under all normal conditions. For applications where extremely low leakage during purification is critical, leakage can be diminished by performing a blank run. See Section [Blank run, on page 10](#).
- Use binding and elution buffers without reducing agents.

## Reduce discoloring when reducing agents are used

HisTrap HP is compatible with reducing agents as listed in [Table 3, on page 6](#). Discoloring is always seen when using high concentrations of reducing agents. In most cases this does not affect the performance of the chromatography medium. To minimize the discoloring, perform a blank run using buffers without reducing agents before the purification. See Section [Blank run, on page 10](#).

**Table 4.** Prepacked columns for desalting and buffer exchange

Column	Loading volume	Elution volume
HiPrep™ 26/10 Desalting <sup>1</sup>	2.5 to 15 mL	7.5 to 20 mL
HiTrap Desalting <sup>2</sup>	0.25 to 1.5 mL	1.0 to 2.0 mL
PD-10 Desalting <sup>3</sup>	1.0 to 2.5 mL <sup>4</sup>	3.5 mL
	1.75 to 2.5 mL <sup>5</sup>	Up to 2.5 mL
PD MiniTrap™ G-25	0.1 to 2.5 mL <sup>4</sup>	1.0 mL
	0.2 to 0.5 mL <sup>5</sup>	Up to 0.5 mL



PD MidiTrap™ G-25	0.5 to 1 mL <sup>4</sup>	1.5 mL
	0.75 to 1 mL <sup>5</sup>	Up to 1 mL

<sup>1</sup> Prepacked with Sephadex™ G-25 Fine and requires a pump or a chromatography system to run.

<sup>2</sup> Prepacked with Sephadex G-25 Superfine and requires a syringe or pump to run.

<sup>3</sup> Prepacked with Sephadex G-25 and can be run by the gravity flow or centrifugation.

<sup>4</sup> Volumes with gravity elution.

<sup>5</sup> Volumes with centrifugation.

## 3 Preparation

### Buffer preparation

Water and chemicals used for buffer preparation should be of high purity. Filter buffers through a 0.22 µm or a 0.45 µm filter before use.

Use high purity imidazole as this will give very low or no absorbance at 280 nm.

If the recombinant histidine-tagged protein is expressed as inclusion bodies, include 6 M Gua-HCl or 8 M urea in all buffers and sample. On-column refolding of the denatured protein may be possible.

### Recommended conditions

<b>Binding buffer:</b>	20 mM sodium phosphate, 0.5 M NaCl,
	20 to 40 mM imidazole, pH 7.4 (The optimal imidazole concentration is protein dependent;
	20 to 40 mM is suitable for many proteins.)
<b>Elution buffer:</b>	20 mM sodium phosphate, 0.5 M NaCl, 500 mM imidazole, pH 7.4
	(The imidazole concentration required for elution is protein dependent).

## Ni<sup>2+</sup> leakage

Leakage of Ni<sup>2+</sup> from Ni Sepharose High Performance is low under all normal conditions. The leakage is lower than for other IMAC media tested (see *Data File 18117440*). For very critical applications, leakage during purification can be even further diminished by performing a blank run (as described below) before loading sample.

## Blank run

**Note:** *Perform a blank run without reducing agents before applying buffers/samples containing reducing agents. Likewise, a blank run is recommended for critical purifications where metal ion leakage during purification must be minimized.*

Use binding buffer and elution buffer **without** reducing agents.

Step	Action
1	Wash the column with 5 column volumes (CV) of distilled water.
2	Wash with 5 CV elution buffer.
3	Equilibrate with 10 CV binding buffer.

**Note:** *Ni Sepharose High Performance is compatible with reducing agents. However, removal of any weakly bound Ni<sup>2+</sup> ions by performing a blank run without reducing agents (as described above) before applying buffer/ sample including reducing agents is recommended. Do not leave HisTrap HP columns with buffers including reducing agents when not in use.*

## Sample preparation

For optimal growth, induction, and cell lysis conditions for your recombinant histidine-tagged clones, please refer to established protocols.

Adjust the sample to the composition and pH of the binding buffer by:

- adding buffer, NaCl, imidazole, and additives from concentrated stock solutions,
- diluting the sample with binding buffer, or
- buffer exchange, (see [Table 4, on page 8](#)).

Do not use strong bases or acids for pH-adjustment (precipitation risk). Filter the sample through a 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  or a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  filter and/or centrifuge it immediately before applying it to the column.

To prevent the binding of host cell proteins with exposed histidine, it is essential to include imidazole at a low concentration in the sample and binding buffer (see [Chapter 5 Optimization, on page 13](#)).

## 4 Purification

Step	Action
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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Fill the syringe or pump tubing with distilled water.  |
| 2 | Remove the stopper and connect the column to the syringe (use the luer connector provided), laboratory pump or chromatography system tubing “drop-to-drop” to avoid introducing air into the system. |

Step	Action
3	Remove the snap-off end at the column outlet.
4	Wash the column with 3 to 5 column volumes of distilled water.
5	<p>Equilibrate the column with at least 5 column volumes of binding buffer. Recommended flow rates are 1 ml/min or 5 ml/min for the 1 and 5 ml columns respectively.</p> <p>In some cases a blank run is recommended before final equilibration/ sample application (see Section <a href="#">Blank run, on page 10</a>).</p>
6	Apply the pretreated sample using a syringe or a pump.
7	Wash with binding buffer until the absorbance reaches a steady baseline (generally, at least 10 to 15 column volumes).
	<p><b>Note:</b></p> <p><i>Purification results are improved by using imidazole in sample and binding buffer (see <a href="#">Chapter 5 Optimization, on page 13</a>).</i></p>
8	Elute with elution buffer using a one-step or linear gradient. Five column volumes are usually sufficient if the protein of interest is eluted by a one-step gradient. A shallow gradient, for example a linear gradient over 20 column volumes or more, may separate proteins with similar binding strengths.

**Note:** *If imidazole needs to be removed from the protein, use HiTrap Desalting, a PD-10 Desalting Column, or HiPrep 26/10 Desalting depending on the sample volume (see [Table 4, on page 8](#)).*

## 5 Optimization

### Concentration of imidazole

Imidazole at low concentrations is commonly used in the binding and the wash buffers to minimize binding of host cell proteins. For the same reason, it is important to also include imidazole in the sample (generally, at the same concentration as in the wash buffer). At somewhat higher concentrations, imidazole may also decrease the binding of histidine-tagged proteins.

The imidazole concentration must therefore be optimized to ensure the best balance of high purity (low binding of host cell proteins), and high yield (binding of histidine-tagged target protein). This optimal concentration is different for different histidine-tagged proteins, and is usually slightly higher for Ni Sepharose High Performance than for similar IMAC media on the market (see *Data File 18117440*).

Finding the optimal imidazole concentration for a specific histidine-tagged protein is a trial-and-error effort, but 20 to 40 mM in the binding and wash buffers is a good starting point for many proteins. Use a high purity imidazole, such imidazole gives essentially no absorbance at 280 nm.

## Choice of metal ion

$\text{Ni}^{2+}$  is usually the first choice metal ion for purifying most (histidine)<sub>6</sub>-tagged recombinant proteins from nontagged host cell proteins, and also the ion most generally used. Nevertheless, it is not always possible to predict which metal ion will be best for a given protein. The strength of binding between a protein and a metal ion is affected by several factors, including the length, position, and exposure of the affinity tag on the protein, the type of ion used, and the pH of buffers, so some proteins may be easier to purify with ions other than  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ .

A quick and efficient way to test this possibility and optimize separation conditions is to use HiTrap IMAC HP 1 ml columns, which are packed with IMAC Sepharose High Performance (not charged with metal ions). Each column can be charged with different metal ions, for example  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , or  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . Instructions are included with each column.

A study to compare the purification of six (histidine)<sub>6</sub>-tagged recombinant proteins, including three variants of maltose-binding protein, with different metal ions has indicated that  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  generally gives best selectivity between (histidine)-tagged and nontagged host-cell proteins (see *Application Note 18114518*).

## 6 Stripping and recharging

**Note:** *The column does not have to be stripped and recharged between each purification if the same protein is going to be purified; it is sufficient to strip and recharge it after five to seven purifications, depending on the cell extract, extract volume, target protein, etc.*

### Stripping

**Recommended stripping buffer:** 20 mM sodium phosphate, 0.5 M NaCl, 50 mM EDTA, pH 7.4

Strip the column by washing with at least 5 to 10 column volumes of stripping buffer. Wash with at least 5 to 10 column volumes of binding buffer and 5 to 10 column volumes of distilled water before recharging the column.

### Recharging

Recharge the water-washed column by loading 0.5 ml or 2.5 ml of 0.1 M  $\text{NiSO}_4$  in distilled water on HisTrap HP 1 ml and 5 ml column, respectively. Salts of other metals, chlorides, or sulfates, may also be used (see [Chapter 5 Optimization, on page 13](#)).

Wash with 5 column volumes distilled water, and 5 column volumes binding buffer (to adjust pH) before storage in 20% ethanol.

## 7 Cleaning-in-place

When an increase in back pressure is seen, the column should be cleaned. Before cleaning, strip off  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  ions using the recommended procedure described in [Chapter 6 Stripping and recharging, on page 15](#).

After cleaning, store in 20% ethanol (wash with 5 column volumes) or recharge with  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  prior to storage in ethanol.

The  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ -stripped column can be cleaned by the following Cleaning-in-place (CIP) protocols:

### CIP protocols

Ionically bound proteins	Wash with several column volumes of 1.5 M NaCl; then wash with approx. 10 column volumes of distilled water.
Precipitated proteins, hydrophobically bound proteins, and lipoproteins	Wash the column with 1 M NaOH, contact time usually 1 to 2 hours (12 hours or more for endotoxin removal). Then wash with approx. 10 column volumes of binding buffer, followed by 5 to 10 column volumes of distilled water.



Hydrophobically bound proteins, lipoproteins, and lipids

Wash with 5 to 10 column volumes of 30% iso-propanol for about 15 to 20 minutes. Then wash with approx. 10 column volumes of distilled water.

Alternatively, wash with 2 column volumes of detergent in a basic or acidic solution. Use, for example, 0.1 to 0.5% nonionic detergent in 0.1 M acetic acid, contact time 1 to 2 hours. After treatment, always remove residual detergent by washing with at least 5 column volumes of 70% ethanol<sup>1</sup>. Then wash with approx. 10 column volumes of distilled water.

<sup>1</sup> Specific regulations may apply when using 70% ethanol since the use of explosion proof areas and equipment may be required.

## 8 Scaling-up

Two or three HisTrap HP 1 ml or 5 ml columns can be connected in series for quick scale-up (note that back-pressure will increase).

Ni Sepharose High Performance, the medium prepacked in HisTrap HP columns, is supplied preswollen in 25 and 100 ml lab packs (see [Chapter 12 Ordering Information, on page 25](#)).

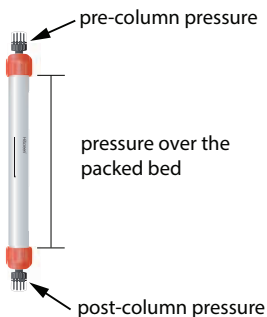
An alternative scale-up strategy is thus to pack the medium in empty columns – Tricorn™ and XK columns are suitable for this purpose.

## 9 Adjusting pressure limits in chromatography system software

Pressure generated by the flow through a column affects the packed bed and the column hardware, see [Figure 3, on page 18](#) below. Increased pressure is generated when running/using one or a combination of the following conditions:

- High flow rates
- Buffers or sample with high viscosity
- Low temperature
- A flow restrictor

**Note:** Exceeding the flow limit (see recommended flow rates in [Table 2, on page 4](#)) can damage the column.



**Fig 3.** Precolumn and post-column measurements.

## ÄKTA avant and ÄKTA pure

The system will automatically monitor the pressures (pre-column pressure and pressure over the packed bed,  $\Delta p$ ). The pre-column pressure limit is the column hardware pressure limit (see [Table 1, on page 3](#)).

The maximum pressure the packed bed can withstand depends on media characteristics and sample/liquid viscosity. The measured value also depends on the tubing used to connect the column to the instrument.

## ÄKTAexplorer, ÄKTApurifier, ÄKTAFLC and other systems with pressure sensor in the pump

To obtain optimal functionality, the pressure limit in the software may be adjusted according to the following procedure:

Step	Action
------	--------

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Replace the column with a piece of tubing. Run the pump at the maximum intended flow rate. Note the pressure as <i>total system pressure</i> , P1.           |
| 2 | Disconnect the tubing and run the pump at the same flow rate used in step 1. Note that there will be a drip from the column valve. Note this pressure as P2. |

Step	Action
------	--------

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 | Calculate the new pressure limit as a sum of P2 and the column hardware pressure limit (see <a href="#">Table 1, on page 3</a> ). Replace the pressure limit in the software with the calculated value. |
|---|---|

The actual pressure over the packed bed ( $\Delta p$ ) will during run be equal to actual measured pressure - total system pressure (P1).

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**Note:** Repeat the procedure each time the parameters are changed.

## 10 Storage

Store HisTrap HP columns in 20% ethanol at 4°C to 30°C.

## 11 Troubleshooting

The following tips may be of assistance. If you have any further questions about HisTrap HP, please visit [cytiva.com](https://www.cytiva.com), contact our technical support, or your local Cytiva representative.

**Note:** When using high concentrations of urea or Gua-HCl, protein unfolding generally takes place. Refolding oncolumn (or after elution) is protein dependent.

**Tip:** To minimize dilution of the sample, solid urea or Gua-HCl can be added.

**Tip:** *Samples containing urea can be analyzed directly by SDS-PAGE whereas samples containing Gua-HCl must be buffer-exchanged to a buffer with urea before SDS-PAGE.*

## Column has clogged

- Cell debris in the sample may clog the column. Clean the column according to [Chapter 7 Cleaning-in-place, on page 16](#)
- Centrifuge and/or filter the sample through a 0.22 µm or a 0.45 µm filter, see [Sample preparation, on page 11](#).

## Sample is too viscous

- If the lysate is very viscous due to high concentration of host nucleic acid, continue sonication until the viscosity is reduced, and/or add DNase I to 5 µg/ml, Mg<sup>2+</sup> to 1 mM, and incubate on ice for 10 to 15 minutes. Alternatively, draw the lysate through a syringe needle several times.

## Protein is difficult to dissolve or precipitates during purification

- **See [Table 3, on page 6](#) for reducing agents, detergents, glycerol and denaturing agents that may be used.**

Mix gently for 30 minutes after addition of additives to aid solubilization of the tagged protein (inclusion bodies may require much longer mixing). Note that Triton X-100 and NP-40 (but not Tween) have a high absorbance at 280 nm. Furthermore, detergents cannot be easily removed by buffer exchange.

## No histidine-tagged protein in the purified fractions

- **Elution conditions are too mild (histidine-tagged protein still bound):** Elute with an increasing imidazole gradient or decreasing pH to determine the optimal elution conditions.
- **The protein has precipitated in the column:** For the next experiment, decrease amount of sample, or decrease protein concentration by eluting with linear imidazole gradient instead of imidazole steps. Try detergents or changed NaCl concentration, or elute under denaturing (unfolding) conditions (add 4 to 8 M urea or 4 to 6 M Gua-HCl).
- **Nonspecific hydrophobic or other interaction:** Add a nonionic detergent to the elution buffer (e.g., 0.2% Triton X-100) or increase the NaCl concentration.
- **Concentration of imidazole in the sample and/or binding buffer is too high:** The protein is found in the flowthrough material. Decrease the imidazole concentration.
- **Histidine-tag may be insufficiently exposed:** The protein is found in the flowthrough material; perform purification of unfolded protein in urea or Gua-HCl as for inclusion bodies.
- **Buffer/sample composition is incorrect:** The protein is found in the flowthrough material. Check pH and composition of sample and binding buffer. Make sure that chelating or strong reducing agents are not present in the sample at too high concentration, and that the concentration of imidazole is not too high.

SDS-PAGE of samples collected during the preparation of the bacterial lysate may indicate that most of histidine-tagged protein is located in the centrifugation pellet. Possible causes and solutions are:

- **Sonication may be insufficient:** Cell disruption may be checked by microscopic examination or monitored by measuring the release of nucleic acids at  $A_{260}$ . Addition of lysozyme (up to 0.1 volume of a 10 mg/ml lysozyme solution in 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) prior to sonication may improve results. Avoid frothing and overheating as this may denature the target protein. Over-sonication can also lead to copurification of host proteins with the target protein.
- **The protein may be insoluble (inclusion bodies):** The protein can usually be solubilized (and unfolded) from inclusion bodies using common denaturants such as 4 to 6 M Gua-HCl, 4 to 8 M urea, or strong detergents. Prepare buffers containing 20 mM sodium phosphate, 8 M urea, or 6 M Gua-HCl, and suitable imidazole concentrations, pH 7.4 to 7.6. Buffers with urea should also include 500 mM NaCl. Use these buffers for sample preparation, as binding buffer and as elution buffer. For sample preparation and binding buffer, use 10 to 20 mM imidazole or the concentration selected during optimization trials (including urea or Gua-HCl).

## **The eluted protein is not pure (multiple bands on SDS polyacrylamide gel)**

- **Partial degradation of tagged protein by proteases:** Add protease inhibitors (use EDTA with caution, see [Table 3, on page 6](#)).

- **Contaminants have high affinity for nickel ions:** Elute with a stepwise or linear imidazole gradient to determine optimal imidazole concentrations to use for binding and for wash; add imidazole to the sample in the same concentration as the binding buffer. Wash before elution with binding buffer containing as high concentration of imidazole as possible, without causing elution of the tagged protein. A shallow imidazole gradient (20 column volumes or more), may separate proteins with similar binding strengths. If optimized conditions do not remove contaminants, further purification by ion exchange chromatography (HiTrap Q HP or HiTrap SP HP) and/or gel filtration (Superdex™ Peptide, Superdex 75 or Superdex 200) may be necessary.
- **Contaminants are associated with tagged proteins:** Add detergent and/or reducing agents before sonicating cells. Increase detergent levels (e.g. up to 2% Triton X-100 or 2% Tween 20), or add glycerol (up to 50%) to the wash buffer to disrupt nonspecific interactions.

## **Histidine-tagged protein is eluted during sample loading/wash**

- **Buffer/sample composition is incorrect:** Check pH and composition of sample and binding buffer. Ensure that chelating or strong reducing agents are not present in the sample at a too high concentration, and that the concentration of imidazole is not too high.
- **Histidine-tag is partially obstructed:** Purify under denaturing conditions (use 4 to 8 M urea or 4 to 6 M Gua-HCl).



- **Column capacity is exceeded:** Join two or three HisTrap HP 1 ml columns together or change to a HisTrap HP 5 ml column.

## 12 Ordering Information

Product	Quantity	Product Code.
HisTrap HP	1 × 1 ml	29051021
	5 × 1 ml	17524701
	100 × 1 ml <sup>1</sup>	17524705
	1 × 5 ml	17524801
	5 × 5 ml	17524802
	100 × 5 ml <sup>1</sup>	17524805

<sup>1</sup> Pack size available by special order.

Related products	Quantity	Product Code.
Ni Sepharose High Performance	25 ml	17526801
	100 ml	17526802
HiTrap Desalting	1 × 5 ml	29048684
	5 × 5 ml	17140801
	100 × 5 ml <sup>1</sup>	11000329
PD-10 Desalting Column	30	17085101
HiPrep 26/10 Desalting	1 × 53 ml	17508701
	4 × 53 ml	17508702
HisTrap FF	5 × 1 ml	17531901
	100 × 1 ml <sup>1</sup>	17531902
	5 × 5 ml	17525501
	100 × 5 ml <sup>1</sup>	17525502
HisTrap FF crude	1 × 1 ml	29048631
	5 × 1 ml	11000458
	100 × 1 ml <sup>1</sup>	11000459

Related products	Quantity	Product Code.
	5 × 5 ml	17528601
	100 × 5 ml <sup>1</sup>	17528602
HisTrap FF crude Kit	1 kit	28401477
HisPrep™ FF 16/10	1 × 20 ml	28936551

<sup>1</sup> Pack size available by special order

Accessories	Quantity	Product Code.
1/16" male/luer female ( <i>For connection of syringe to top of HiTrap column</i> )	2	18111251
Tubing connector flangeless/M6 female ( <i>For connection of tubing to bottom of HiTrap column</i> )	2	18100368
Tubing connector flangeless/M6 male ( <i>For connection of tubing to top of HiTrap column</i> )	2	18101798
Union 1/16" female/M6 male ( <i>For connection to original FPLC System through bottom of HiTrap column</i> )	6	18111257
Union M6 female /1/16" male ( <i>For connection to original FPLC System through top of HiTrap column</i> )	5	18385801
Union luerlock female/M6 female	2	18102712
HiTrap/HiPrep, 1/16" male connector for ÄKTA design	8	28401081
Stop plug female, 1/16" ( <i>For sealing bottom of HiTrap column</i> )	5	11000464
Fingertight stop plug, 1/16"	5	11000355

Related literature	Product Code.
Recombinant Protein Purification Handbook, Principles and Methods	18114275
Affinity Chromatography Handbook, Principles and Methods	18102229
Affinity Chromatography, Columns and Media Selection Guide	18112186
Ni Sepharose and IMAC Sepharose, Selection Guide	28407092

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[cytiva.com/hitrap](https://cytiva.com/hitrap)

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