



B58 Validation of the Gold-Plated Silver Sample Block on the GeneAmp® PCR System 9700 Thermal Cycler

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand that the use of the gold-plated silver sample block is validated for use interchangeably with the silver sample block on the GeneAmp(R) PCR System 9700 thermal cycler, and can be used for forensic casework.

This presentation will demonstrate the validation of new equipment which is required by DAB standards. The gold-plated silver sample block used with the GeneAmp(R) PCR System 9700 thermal cycler has now been validated for use in forensic casework, and can be used interchangeably with other available sample block formats.

The GeneAmp® PCR System 9700 Thermal Cycler has been introduced with interchangeable silver and gold-plated silver sample blocks. To validate the new gold-plated silver sample block on the System 9700, amplifications were performed on both the gold-plated silver and the previously validated silver sample blocks. PCR amplifications using the AmpFISTR® Profiler Plus *ID*TM, COfiler®TM, Identifiler®TM and SGM Plus®TM typing kits (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) were performed. Electrophoretic characteristics such as allelic profiles, peak heights, and peak height ratios were used to discern differences in the amplification capabilities of the two sample blocks. There was 100% concordance in the genetic profiles generated on each sample block. Peak height and peak height ratio data demonstrated no differences between the two sample blocks. These results demonstrate that the PCR reactions on both silver and gold-plated silver blocks are equivalent. The results of this study validate the interchangeability of the silver and goldplated silver sample blocks on the GeneAmp® PCR System 9700 Thermal Cycler.

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