

# SOLA high pH reversed-phase peptide fractionation by offline SPE

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## Keywords

Peptide Fractionation, Proteomics,  
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## Materials required

- Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)
- Acetonitrile (ACN), LC-MS Grade
- Water, LC-MS Grade
- Triethylamine
- SOLA HRP SPE Cartridges, 10 mg
- Positive pressure or vacuum manifold for SPE cartridges
- Low protein binding microcentrifuge tubes

## Introduction

High-pH reversed-phase chromatography is a robust method of peptide fractionation that separates peptides by hydrophobicity and provides excellent orthogonality to low-pH reversed-phase LC-MS gradients. In contrast to strong cation exchange (SCX) fractionation, high-pH reversed-phase fractions do not require an additional desalting step before liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) analysis.

This principal can be applied to create a second dimension of separation when dealing with complex mixtures such as bioanalytical analysis of peptides. Cell lysates are extremely complex and subfractionating peptides can increase analytical depth and increase the detection of lower abundance components. This subfractionation can be done simply offline using solid phase extraction.

The range of Thermo Scientific™ SOLA™ Solid Phase Extraction (SPE) products use innovative frit-less SPE technology to eliminate the issues associated with traditional loose-packed SPE formats. SOLA HRP's polymeric sorbent bed allows for the use of high-pH solvents that would damage traditional silica-based SPE cartridges. Combining the support material and active media components into a solid uniform sorbent bed provides stable and controllable flow through characteristics and has an added advantage when dealing with viscous biological samples, as it prevents blocking and is also amenable to throughout processing due to 96 well plate formats.

## Important notes

- This protocol describes a fractionation using SOLA HRP SPE cartridges or SOLA HRP SPE 96 well plates with a 10 mg bed weight. Sample and solvent volumes may be adjusted for use with Thermo Scientific™ SOLA $\mu$ ™ HRP 96 well plates with a 2 mg bed weight.
- Use low protein-binding microcentrifuge tubes to ensure maximum sample recovery.

## Protocol

1. Condition SPE cartridge with 500  $\mu$ L acetonitrile.
2. Equilibrate with two 500  $\mu$ L aliquots of 0.1% TFA in water.
3. Load sample equivalent to approximately 10  $\mu$ g protein digest in 600  $\mu$ L 0.1% TFA in water.
4. Wash with 500  $\mu$ L water.
5. Elute 8 total fractions of 2  $\times$  250  $\mu$ L (500  $\mu$ L total for each fraction) using the elution solvents in the following table – Collect each 500  $\mu$ L fraction.
6. Evaporate the liquid contents of each fraction and re-constitute in 2% ACN/0.05% TFA in water prior to analysis.

Fraction number	Acetonitrile (%) in 0.1% Triethylamine
1	5.0
2	7.5
3	10.0
4	12.5
5	15.0
6	17.5
7	20.0
8	50.0

## Related Thermo Scientific products

- 60109-001** SOLA HRP SPE cartridges, 10 mg/1 mL, 100 pack  
**60309-001** SOLA HRP SPE 96 well plate, 10 mg/2 mL

Current versions of product instructions are available at [separatedbyexperience.com/chromexpert](https://separatedbyexperience.com/chromexpert).

Learn more about SOLA and SOLA $\mu$  Solid Phase Extraction at [thermofisher.com/sola-spe](https://thermofisher.com/sola-spe)

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