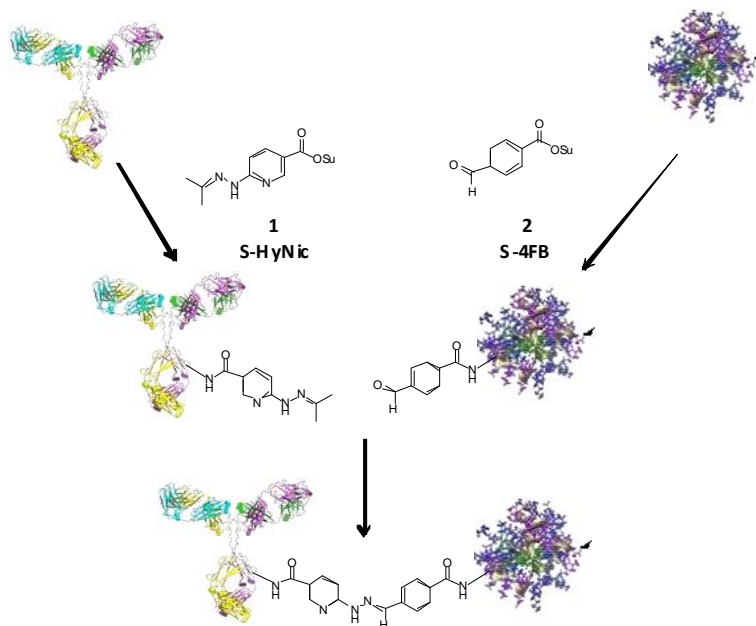


## Introduction to SoluLink Bioconjugation Technology

SoluLink's core technology is based on the formation of a bis-arylhydrazone formed from an aromatic hydrazine and an aromatic aldehyde. S-HyNic **1** (succinimidyl 6-hydrazinonicotinate acetone hydrazone, SANH) is used to incorporate aromatic hydrazine moieties on biomolecules. S-HyNic is an amino-reactive reagent that directly converts amino groups on biomolecules and surfaces to HyNic groups. S-4FB **2** (succinimidyl 4-formylbenzoate, SFB) is used to convert amino groups to aromatic aldehydes (4-formylbenzamide (4FB) groups). Addition of a HyNic-modified biomolecule to a 4FB-modified biomolecule or surface directly leads to the formation of the conjugate (Figure 1). The bis-arylhydrazone bond is stable to 92°C and pH 2.0-10.0. The recommended pH for antibody conjugation is 6.0. Unlike thiol-based conjugation protocols where reducing reagents are required that can compromise the activity of proteins by cleaving disulfide bonds, the HyNic-4FB conjugation couple leaves disulfide bonds intact. No oxidants, reductants or metals are required in the preparation of conjugate.

Further enhancing the many advantages of the HyNic/4FB conjugation couple is the discovery by Dirksen *et al.*<sup>1</sup> that showed that aniline catalyzes the formation of this Schiff's base. This is especially effective for large biomolecule conjugations. In the case of antibody-protein conjugations the addition of 10 mM aniline to the reaction mixture converts >95% of the antibody to conjugate in ~2 hours using 1-2 mole equivalents of second protein.



**Figure 1:** Schematic representation of SoluLink Bioconjugation chemistry where an antibody is modified with S-HyNic to incorporate HyNic groups and a second protein is modified with S-4FB to incorporate 4FB groups. Conjugate is formed directly by simply mixing the HyNic-modified antibody with the 4FB-modified proteins.

The HyNic-4FB conjugation couple is chromophoric- the conjugate bond absorbs at 354 nm and has a molar extinction coefficient of 29000. This allows (1) real time spectrophotometric monitoring of a conjugate reaction, (2) ability to 'visualize' the conjugate during chromatographic purification using a UV or photodiode array detector and (3) quantification of conjugation. Furthermore, the level of incorporation of 4FB groups can be quantified colorimetrically as reaction with 2-hydrazinopyridine (SoluLink catalog# # S-2002-100) yields a chromophoric product that absorbs at A360 with a molar extinction coefficient of 18000 (Figure 2). Links to procedures and calculators to guide users through this process are given in the procedures below.

**Peg4/PFP** (SoluLink catalog: [S-1034-010 \(10 mg\)](#)) is an analog of S-4FB with Peg4 extended hydrophilic linker if required to space biomolecules from surfaces or each other.

## Methods

### Additional Materials Required

#### Reagents

Diafiltration spin columns	S-4004-025
Modification Buffer	S-4003-005
Conjugation Buffer	S-4002-005
DMF (anhydrous)	S-4001-005

#### Equipment

Variable-speed bench-top microcentrifuge
Spectrophotometer or Plate Reader
1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes
2-sulfo-benzaldehyde (S-2005-100)

**Note:** This Protocol and all links below can be downloaded at <http://www.SoluLink.com/protocols.php>

## Modification Procedure

### A. Desalting procedure (More detailed protocols at [LINK](#))

- Desalt/buffer exchange the protein into Modification Buffer (100 mM sodium phosphate, 150 mM sodium chloride, pH 7.4).

Notes:

- It is necessary to remove all free amine-containing contaminants, e.g. tris, glycine, from the protein solution before modification.
- High-level buffering capacity, i.e. 100 mM phosphate, is necessary for successful modification.
- For desalting proteins SoluLinK recommends Pierce Zeba Desalt Spin columns (# 89882); for oligonucleotides, Sartorius Vivaspin diafiltration units (#VS0112). Refer to desalting protocol for either apparatus.

**B. Determine the concentration of the protein (More detailed protocols at [LINK](#) )**

- Determine the concentration of the protein to be modified using the BCA assay (ThermoScientific, #23223) or spectrophotometrically if the extinction coefficient of the protein is known. The extinction coefficient for antibodies is 1.4 for a 1 mg/mL solution.
- Bring the concentration to 1-5 mg/mL in Modification Buffer pH 7.4

IgG concentration (mg/mL)	Peg4/PFB molar equivalents added	Determined ratio of 4FB/protein
1.0	5	2.38
	10	4.73
	15	6.20
2.5	5	3.08
	10	6.58
5.0	5	3.74
	10	6.80

**Table 1:** The number of 4FB groups incorporated on an antibody is dependent on the number of mole equivalents S-4FB added and the protein concentration. This table can be used as a general guide for modification of any protein with a succinimidyl-based modification reagent.

**C. Prepare a Peg4/PFB/DMF stock solution**

- Prepare a stock solution of Peg4/PFB in anhydrous DMF (or DMSO) by dissolving 2-4 mg of Peg4/PFB in 100  $\mu$ L anhydrous DMF.

**Note:**

- The Peg3/PFB /DMF stock solution is stable for 2 weeks if prepared with anhydrous DMF (SoluLinK catalog# S-4001-010) and stored desiccated.

**D. Modification of protein (More detailed protocols at [LINK](#)) and of oligonucleotides ([LINK](#))**

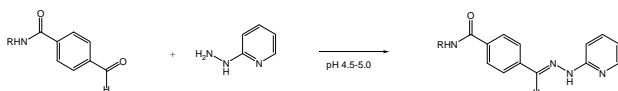
- Using Table 1 as a guide, add the requisite volume of Peg3/PFB /DMF to the protein solution.
- Allow reaction to incubate at room temperature for 2.0 hours.

**E. Desalting procedure (detailed protocols at [LINK](#))**

- Desalt/buffer exchange the protein into Conjugation Buffer (0.1M sodium phosphate, 0.15M sodium chloride, pH 6.0). For proteins SoluLinK recommends Pierce Zeba Desalt Spin columns (# 89882) or for oligonucleotides SoluLinK recommends Sartorius Vivaspin diafiltration units (#VS0112). Refer to desalting protocol for either apparatus.

**F. Quantifying modification level (detailed protocols at [LINK](#))**

- The molar substitution ratio (MSR) can be determined using a colorimetric reaction outlined in Figure 2. Addition of 2-hydrazinopyridine to a 4FB-modified biomolecules yields a bis-arylhydrazone that absorbs at 350 nm. Calculator/protocols can be downloaded from: [LINK](#)



**Figure 2:** Colorimetric reaction used to quantify number of 4FB moieties on a biomolecule

- The biomolecule is now 4FB-modified and ready for conjugation to HyNic-modified biomolecules and surfaces.

**Troubleshooting**

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Protein was not modified or poorly modified.	Protein has been contaminated with amine containing compounds	Desalt the protein more thoroughly with a new Zeba Spin column or VivaSpin diafiltration apparatus
	The concentration of the protein was too low	Increase the concentration of the protein to >2.0 mg/mL
S-4-FB was hydrolyzed	Wet or poor quality DMF/DMSO hydrolyzed the NHS ester	Use a good quality anhydrous DMF/DMSO to solubilize the S-HyNic molecule.

**Stability**

The 4FB moieties incorporated on biomolecules are stable at 4°C for >30 days.

**Related SoluLinK Products**

S-9002-1 S-HyNic Kit	S-4004-025 VivaSpin diafiltration device	S-2002-100 2-hydrazinopyridine
S-1004-025 S-4FB Linker	S-4001-005 DMF anhydrous	S-4023-005 Aniline
S-4003-005 Modification Buffer	S-4002-005 Conjugation Buffer	S-4024-005 Aniline conjugation buffer

**References**

- Dirksen, A., et al., Nucleophilic catalysis of hydrazone formation and transimination: implications for dynamic covalent chemistry. J Am Chem Soc, 2006. 128(49): p. 15602-3.
- Ryan C. Bailey, Gabriel A. Kwong, Caius G. Radu, Owen N. Witte, and James R. Heath, DNA-Encoded Antibody Libraries: A Unified Platform for Multiplexed Cell Sorting and Detection of Genes and Proteins, J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 2007, **129**, 1959-1967.