8. From left-to-right, seal the elution modules with the adhesive tape provided. Firmly rub the tape with a smooth round plastic object (like a lab marker pen) to firmly seal the elution elution wells.

9. Carefully move the cassette to the SageELF nest.

10. Top up the liquid level in the upper buffer area. Add buffer until it is completely full. This is a critical step, refer the operation manual if unfamiliar with the proper level.

11. Remove 1.0 ml of buffer from the upper buffer area to set the correct volume.

**F. Run the Electrophoresis Current Test**

1. Close the lid.
2. In the Main Tab, press “Clear Run Data”
3. Select: the Cassette Description, Cassette Definition, Protocol, and Nests to be run.
4. Press “Check Current”. When the test is incomplete, open the lid.

**F. Load Sample(s)**

1. Make sure the sample well is full. If not, top off with buffer.
2. Remove 40µl of buffer from the the sample well, and load 40µl of sample into that well. The sample should be full after loading.

**G. Run**

1. Close the lid.
2. Press “Run Protocol”
3. During a run, a marker peak should be detected for each cassette that is run. The marker runs ahead of the fractionation range.

**SageELF™ Quick Guide**

3% SDS-Agarose Gel Cassette for protein fractionation between 10 -300kDa

**Recommended Sample Load Guidelines**

If sample is in high salt buffer (e.g. 7M Urea or 8M guanidine), buffer should be exchanged by dialysis or gel filtration into the provided SDS electrophoresis buffer. Sample and buffer composition will influence sample migration. Results may vary when using alternative buffers. Using a reductant such as TCEP or DTT is recommended.

**Recommended Buffer**

10-30 mM Tris, pH 7.4 – 8, 0-10 % glycerol, up to 50 mM TCEP

**Maximum Amount:** 350µg in 26μl  **Minimum Amount:** 100ng in 26μl

**Note:** this guide describes workflow using an internal marker. Refer to the SageELF operations manual for running timed fractionation.

**A. Prepare protein samples**

1. Bring the “Loading Solution/Marker-03” mix to room temperature.
2. Bring the protein sample up to 26µl with buffer.
3. Add 4µl of 0.5M TCEP to the protein sample.
4. Heat denature the protein sample at 85°C for 6 minutes.
5. Combine the 30µl of protein sample with 10µl of “Loading Solution/Marker-03” mix.
6. Mix samples thoroughly (vortex mixer). Briefly centrifuge to collect.

**B. Calibrate the Optics with the Calibration Fixtures**

1. Place calibration fixture(s) onto the optical nest(s) as shown.
2. Close the instrument lid.
3. Go to the “Main” tab in the software.
4. Clear the protocol field by pressing the “Clear Run Data” button (if necessary).

5. Press the “Calibrate Detector” button.

6. In the Detector Calibration pop-up window, select the nest(s) to be calibrated.

7. Press “Start”.

8. When calibration is complete, press “Return”.

C. Program a Protocol

1. Go to the “Protocol Editor” tab in the software.


3. Select 3% Protein 10kDa to 300 kDa from the “Cassette Definition” drop-down menu.

4. Using “size-based” mode, move the slider to a target elution well number.

5. Enter a value in to the “Target Value” window. This defines the range of fragments that will be collected in the target elution well. The collection range for the remaining wells will be calculated in the software.

6. The chart below can be used as a guideline to estimate fractionation values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Est. Run Time (hrs)</th>
<th>Elution Wells 1 (top) to 12 (bottom), Estimated Median Size (kDa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>224 171 105 67 17 18 7 0 0 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>291 122 150 109 67 53 38 26 18 11 10 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>335 298 194 151 117 88 69 52 42 33 27 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>380 313 239 194 167 123 100 78 67 55 44 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>410 358 283 236 216 158 131 105 92 77 61 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>447 410 327 278 266 193 162 131 117 99 78 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>507 477 372 321 316 228 193 158 142 121 95 77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Press “Save As” and name the fractionation protocol.

D. Prepare the Cassette(s)

1. **While still taped closed!**  
   Hold the cassette sideways with the elution port side down. Tap to remove air bubbles from beneath the gel fingers.

2. Rotate the cassette in the clock-wise direction. Allow the bubbles to collect in the lower buffer area. Gently tap if necessary.

3. Continue to rotate the cassette clockwise, moving as many bubbles as possible to the side buffer area. Tap the cassette firmly to dislodge any bubbles behind elution wells.

4. Continue to rotate the cassette until most of the bubbles have accumulated in the upper buffer area. Place the cassette onto a benchtop.

5. **On a flat bench top:** Peel off the adhesive tape. Grab the tape tab, hold the cassette firmly down, and pull the tape with a steady motion.

6. Remove all buffer from all 13 elution wells (set pipette to 40 μl to completely empty wells). Keep pipette tips vertical in the well to avoid damage to the membranes.

7. Add 30 μl of buffer to all 13 elution wells.