

Making Carbon-Formvar Grids for TEM

1. The day before coating, make a solution of 0.3g formvar in 100ml chloroform.
2. Clean the grids in ethanol for 30 minutes. Allow the grids to dry on filter paper.
3. Pour the formaldehyde solution into a coplin jar.
4. Dip clean slides into the solution, touch the bottom of slide onto filter paper, prop up and allow to dry.
5. Score the edges of formvar film with a razor blade.
6. Breathe onto the film. Slowly immerse the slide at a 20° angle into a wide dish filled with dH₂O. The film should float on the top of the water.
7. Place the grids with the same side up onto the silver/grey areas of the floating film.
8. Use parafilm to pick up the film and grids in a rolling motion. Place the parafilm with grids and formvar film attached into a petri dish with the grids/film facing up and allow to dry overnight.
9. Use the carbon coater to coat the grids, refer to carbon coater protocol (standard settings: 5 seconds, 5 volts).