P. Kast, February 4, 2002

# Conventions for Visualizing EtBr-Stained Agarose Gels

**A. It is strictly forbidden to enter or leave the dark room *with gloves on* !**

**B. No gel shall ever be laid directly onto the transilluminator without the UV-transparent tray !**

## Recommended Procedure for Analytical Gels

1. In your lab: Put on glove(s), take gel to be visualized from electrophoresis tank and drain off excess liquid from ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel.

2. Without dripping, transfer the agarose gel into your special UV-transparent "tray for analytical purposes" (should not contain any scratches and cuts). **Take care not to contaminate the outside of the tray – thoroughly clean any potential spills before proceeding.**

3. **Take off gloves (!)**

4. Go to the dark room, place **tray** onto the transilluminator, turn on video capturing in computer application and adjust position of the tray and camera as appropriate. Take picture(s).

5. Take tray with gel back to your lab and discard gel there (check with your colleagues how gel waste is handled). Rinse and dry the plastic tray.

**Preparative Gels:** as above, but use your special UV-transparent "tray for preparative purposes" (contains scratches and cuts from cutting out bands).

**We expect everybody to respect these rules to prevent contamination of the equipment in the dark room (and subsequently of ourselves) with ethidium bromide. The penalty for delinquents is:**

**1.) Cleaning of all rooms potentially contaminated**

**2.) Students: no "Testat"; Ph.D. Students: no degree; Postdocs: loose their degree; etc.**