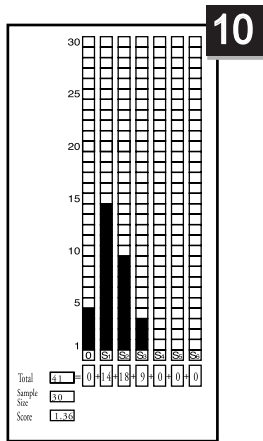


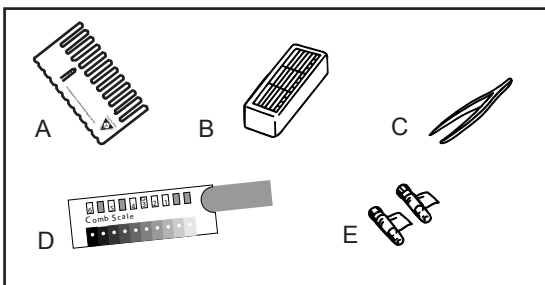
VII. READING & INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

- The upper spot on the ImmunoComb® tests for MM (for turkeys only), the middle spot tests for MG and the lower spot tests for MS. Evaluate the results of each disease separately.
- In order to determine its titer, compare the specimen's color intensity of the Comb's appropriate teeth with that of the positive control (C+) included in the kit. In order to score the results, use the enclosed CombScale (see illustrations 8 & 9 for details).
- Specimens with identical or higher color intensity than the positive control are considered positive.
- The negative control consists of non-immune sera and should be read as zero (S=0).
- Non-specific reactions around S1 (i.e., false positives) occurs occasionally due to various reasons and may be associated with the use of certain commercial vaccines. To avoid misinterpretation of non-specific reactions and possible confusion with true low positive results, it is recommended to confirm results by retesting at a one week interval.
- A test color darker than S6, indicates either an acute disease or a highly immune flock.
- Refer to CombScore instructions for the profiling of each specimen antibody level. To determine the immunity profile of your flock use the enclosed CombScore tables (Illustration 10).



CombScore Table

VIII. THE IMMUNOCOMB® KIT CONTAINS:



A. Thirty Comb cards, each separately wrapped in an aluminum envelope; **B.** Thirty developing plates; **C.** One plastic tweezers; **D.** One CombScale color card; **E.** One tube of positive control serum and one tube of negative control serum; a CombScore sheet and a user manual.

Note: A pipette or capillary tubes are needed. The capillary tubes are available at Biogal or through your supplier: 40 capillary tubes & 1 piston, CAT. NO. 10000140.

ImmunoComb®

Poultry *Mycoplasma meleagridis*, *M. gallisepticum*, & *M. synoviae* Antibody Test Kit

50PMT130
INSTRUCTION MANUAL
SUFFICIENT FOR 300 TESTS

I. INTENDED USE

This kit is designed to determine IgG antibody titers to *Mycoplasma meleagridis* (MM), *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (MG) and *Mycoplasma synoviae* (MS) in **chicken and turkey flocks**. However, the results obtained for MM are relevant for turkeys only and not for chickens.

II. WHAT IS THE IMMUNOCOMB® ASSAY?

The ImmunoComb® is a self-contained portable kit based on a solid phase immunoassay principle. A sensitive test which detects antibody levels in plasma, serum or egg yolk. The ImmunoComb® provides results within 38 minutes.

III. HOW DOES THE IMMUNOCOMB® WORK?

- The ImmunoComb® is a plastic card shaped like a comb, on which purified MM, MG and MS antigens are attached.
- Use chicken or turkey serum, plasma or egg yolk specimen. Samples are deposited into wells in row **A** of the developing plate.
- Comb is inserted into sample wells so that antibodies from samples bind to the antigens on the Comb's teeth.
- Non-bound antibodies are washed off in the second row.
- The next row contains an anti-chicken/turkey IgG antibody labeled with an enzyme. While Comb is immersed in this "conjugate", the bound antibodies will be labeled.
- After two washing steps the Comb is inserted into a row where the enzyme reaction takes place. This generates a color change, its intensity indicates the amount of antibodies present in each sample.
- Using the CombScale, the color intensity obtained at the upper, middle and lower spots may be converted to the antibody level against MM, MG and MS respectively.

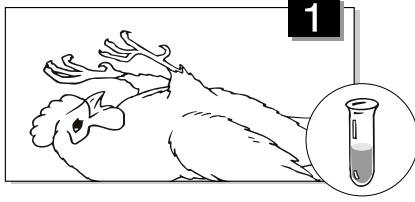
IV. HANDLING & STORAGE

- Store the kit under normal refrigeration: 2° - 8° C (36° - 46° F). **Do not freeze the kit.**
- Before conducting the test, all kit elements and specimens must be at room temperature – preferably for 60 – 120 minutes (or incubate only the developing plate for 22 minutes at 37°C/98.6°F). **Perform assay at room temperature of 20° - 25° C (68° F).**
- Avoid spillage and cross-contamination of solutions.
- Mix reagents by inverting developing plate several times prior to use.
- Do not mix reagents from different kits or from different rows of the same kit.
- Do not touch teeth of ImmunoComb® card.
- When using developing plate, pierce cover of each row by strictly following test procedure instructions. **Do not rip off or remove cover of entire developing plate all at once.**
- The ImmunoComb® kit contains inactivated biological material. Kit must be handled and disposed of in accordance with accepted sanitary requirements.

V. STEP-BY-STEP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

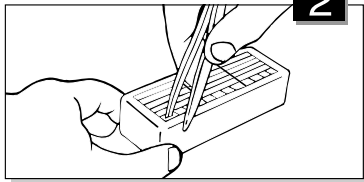
Perform assay at room temperature of 20° - 25° C.

When using serum specimens



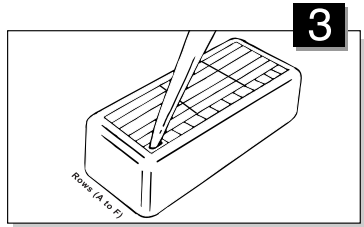
1

Prepare serum/plasma samples. Apply sample by using either a pipette or a capillary tube.



2

Using the tweezers, slit open the protective aluminum cover of wells in row A.



3

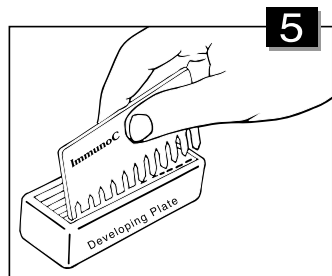
Dispense 5µl sample into each well. When using the capillary tubes raise and lower the piston several times to achieve mixing. When using a pipette, mix by depressing the plunger a number of times.

When using egg yolk specimens

Separate the entire egg yolk and wash gently with tap water. Withdraw 1 ml yolk and transfer to a test tube; add 1 ml isotonic saline solution (0.85% NaCl) and mix thoroughly. Deposit 10µl of each diluted yolk specimen into respective well. Mix by withdrawing and expelling with the pipette several times. Proceed to the next step immediately.

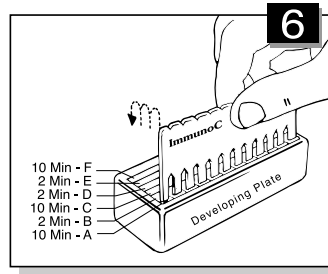
4

Open the next 2 consecutive wells for control serum. Take 5µl positive control serum (C+) and insert into well A next to the last sample. Mix the serum into the well. **Do the same with the negative control serum (C-) in the following well.**



5

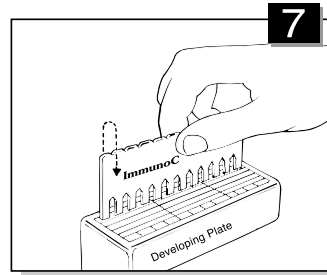
Remove one Comb from its protective wrapping and insert it (printed side facing you) into **Row A**. incubate for **10 minutes**. To improve mixing, gently immerse Comb **up and down** at the start of each incubation (each row). Repeat this motion at least twice in all of the remaining rows.



6

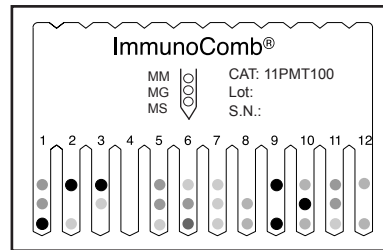
Pierce the cover of wells in **Row B** with the tweezers. Gently shake off excess liquid onto a tissue (follow the same procedure for remaining rows at the end of each step). Insert Comb into wells of **Row B** and incubate for **2 minutes**, shake off and transfer the Comb to **Row C** and incubate for **10 minutes**. Place the Comb in

Row D for **2 minutes**, **Row E** for **2 minutes**, and **Row F** for **10 minutes**, allowing the color reaction process to develop.



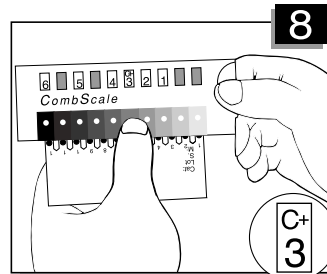
7

After the Comb has completed the cycle for **Row F**, transfer it back to **Row E**. Incubate in **Row E** for **2 minutes** color fixation.



An example of a developed Comb for MM, MG and MS Antibodies

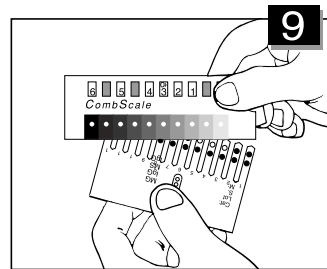
VI. READING RESULTS USING THE COMBSCALE



8

A. Adjust scale with positive control: When the Comb is completely dry, align it with the calibrated color CombScale. Compare color resulting from the positive control (C+) sample to the color scale by sliding the yellow ruler until the "C+" mark appears in the window corresponding to the color.

Finally, hold the slide in this position during reading, and **separately read each antigen-spot.**



9

B. Read each of the spots separately: Choose the most suitable color and read the titer in the yellow windows.

REMEMBER: A DIFFERENCE OF ONE COLOR LEVEL WILL NOT AFFECT THE DIAGNOSIS!

Another way to read the results is by using the CombScan, a program that utilizes a computer and a TWAIN compatible scanner. When a Comb is placed on the scanner, the program translates the color results into numerical values. The CombScan assists labs in reading ImmunoComb® results and conserving the data, and is supplied free of charge upon request.