

# aLF Protocol Exporter Software Manual



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# Introduction

Thank you for choosing the aLF Reader system. We are confident that this product will become an integral part of your daily work in research and assay development.

This manual describes how to operate the aLF Protocol Exporter Software and guides new users through all steps required to create a barcode for a method. Before using the aLF Protocol Exporter Software, it is essential that you read this user manual carefully.

## General Information

### Technical Assistance

At QIAGEN Lake Constance, we pride ourselves on the quality and availability of our technical support. Our technical Services Department is staffed by experienced engineers with extensive practical and theoretical expertise in the use of our products. If you have any questions, or experience any difficulties regarding the aLF Reader products in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

QIAGEN customers are a major source of information regarding advanced or specialized uses of our products. This information is helpful to the researchers at QIAGEN. We therefore encourage you to contact us if you have any suggestion about product performance or new applications and techniques.

For up-to-date information about aLF Reader products visit [www.aLF-reader.com](http://www.aLF-reader.com).

### Policy Statement

It is the policy of QIAGEN Lake Constance GmbH to improve products as new techniques and components become available. Our company reserves the right to change the specifications of aLF Reader products at any time.

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## Version Management

This document is the aLF Protocol Exporter Software Manual Version 1.0. that is suitable for aLF Protocol Exporter Software version 1.0.1 or higher.

## Intended Use of the aLF Protocol Exporter Software

The aLF Protocol Exporter Software tool allows the user to create a string/barcode file of a previously developed method, which thereby can be uploaded to the aLF Reader.

The aLF Protocol Exporter Software should only be used by qualified personnel.

It is designed for test development and feasibility studies. **Not for use in diagnostic procedures.**

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## System Requirements

- PC with Microsoft Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 10
- Intel Pentium Core2Duo E4400 2x 2.0 GHz or higher
- 2 GB RAM
- > 200 MB available memory on hard drive
- USB Interface

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# Installing aLF Protocol Exporter Software

## Software Installation

Copy the folder "aLF Protocol Exporter" from the USB Stick to your PC.

**Note:** Software updates of the aLF Protocol Exporter Software must only be installed by the Administrator of the PC.

## Starting the aLF Protocol Exporter Software

Open the aLF Protocol Exporter folder on your PC and double click on the  "aLF Protocol Exporter .exe"- file to start the software.

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# Operating the aLF Protocol Exporter Software

## aLF Protocol Exporter Software Features

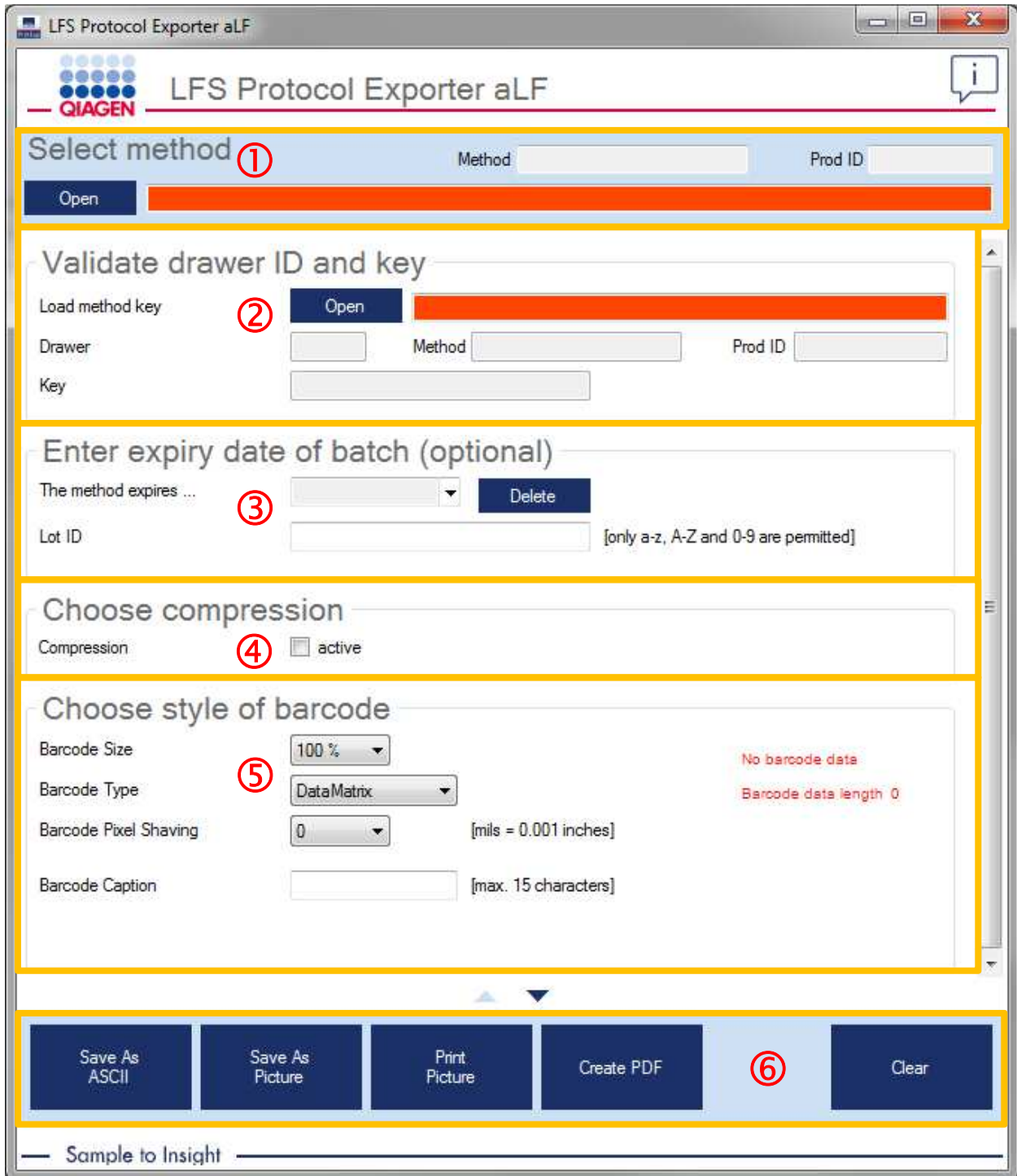
The aLF Protocol Exporter software allows the user to define several parameters for specific LF assay barcodes. The following functions and parameters are featured by the aLF Protocol Exporter Software:

- Create various barcodes for the different stages of method development
- Create different barcodes for the same method with changing parameters
- Save barcodes on your PC
- Print barcodes

## Overview of the aLF Protocol Exporter Software

This chapter gives a quick overview of the aLF Protocol Exporter Software functions. A detailed description will be given in the following chapters. After starting the software the screen displays six sections:

- ① Select method
- ② Validate drawer ID and key
- ③ Enter expiry date of batch (optional)
- ④ Choose compression
- ⑤ Choose style of barcode → also in this part: Barcode Preview
- ⑥ Action Buttons (see below, highlighted in yellow), where all settings can be chosen for a new barcode.



Once method and key have been chosen, you work through the sections to define a new barcode. For more detailed information on how to design a barcode, please refer to chapter Barcode Creation.



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## Creating a Barcode

The red highlighted fields are mandatory for creating a valid barcode. All other entries and selections are optional.

**Note:** Work from top to bottom, otherwise a previous selection might be reset.

### Select method (mandatory)

By using the button "Open" you can choose the method that you'd like to create a barcode for. All input fields of that area will automatically be filled in, according to the method chosen.

Also a barcode preview will now be shown in the lower right part of the area "Choose style of barcode".

### Validate drawer ID and key (mandatory)

By using the button "Open" you can choose the corresponding key file to the beforehand selected method. All input fields of that area will automatically be filled in, according to the chosen key file.

With these first two steps you already created a valid barcode. All subsequent selections and entries are optional. To save or print this most basic barcode now, skip to the bottom area with action buttons.

### Enter expiry date and lot ID of batch (optional)

By opening the drop-down calendar function you can select the expiry date of your lateral flow assay batch. With the button aside this selection can be deleted or, by choosing a new date, corrected.

Note:

- Opening the calendar box again after a date was picked, the beforehand selected date will be highlighted with a blue background
- The aLF Reader will compare the expiry date with the actual date on the device and prevent runs of expired tests.

In the same area a Lot ID can be entered, changed or deleted. This entry field has a limitation of characters, as specified right beside.

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## Choose compression

By activating the checkbox for compression, a method too big for the barcode format will be reduced in content size. This will reduce the dimensions of the 2D barcode

## Choose style of barcode

In this area the barcode style can be adjusted as follows:

- Barcode size can be selected in the range between 100 and 250 %
- Possible barcode types are: DataMatrix, QRCode or Aztec
- If a highly complex barcode is printed with a very intensive black color the readability while scanning might be hindered or even impossible. Decreasing the size of the black boxes by Barcode Pixel Shaving can solve this problem. A shaving between 5 and 50 mils can be selected.
- An additional barcode caption with a maximum of 15 characters can be entered. When saving the barcode in PDF format, this short text will also appear above the barcode

A barcode preview will be shown in the right part of this area, provided that a valid method was opened beforehand. This preview is updated isochronous with every change.

## Action Buttons

The barcode that has been created by the user and appears at the bottom of the screen can either be saved, exported or erased:

- With Button "Save As ASCII" a barcode string will be saved in a .txt format. In this form it can at any time be converted into the associated barcode, using any barcode generator
- With Button "Save As Picture" a barcode can be saved in one the following formats: png, jpg, tiff, bmp, gif.
- With Button "Print Picture" a barcode can be printed with any connected printer.
- With Button "Create PDF" a barcode picture with the given Barcode Caption will be saved in a pdf format.

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- With Button “Clear” the screen will get cleared from almost any entry and selection made beforehand, as well as the barcode preview. Only choices made for barcode compression, size, type and pixel shaving will not change.
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## Contact Information

For additional information, support and technical service, please contact our Technical Support Center at **service-qlc@qiagen.com**, call our hotline on +49 7771 9166 252, or write to QIAGEN Lake Constance GmbH, Jacques-Schiesser-Strasse 3, 78333 Stockach, Germany.

Ordering [aLF-info@qiagen.com](mailto:aLF-info@qiagen.com) | Technical Support [service-qlc@qiagen.com](mailto:service-qlc@qiagen.com) | Website [www.alf-reader.com](http://www.alf-reader.com)

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