## **Supporting Information**

## An easy-to-use plasmid toolset for efficient generation and benchmarking of synthetic small RNAs in bacteria

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TAACCAGCAAGCCGCAAGCGGTGCTCAGCCTGAACAGTCCAAGTCT

**Figure S1.** Design of seed regions for targeting of *acrA*. The *acrA* sequence is given in black letters. Green and red letters indicate start and stop codons, respectively. Orange letters indicate the 'five codon window'. The Shine-Dalgarno sequence is highlighted in a grey box. +1 indicates the transcriptional start site. Seed regions for *acrA* binding are given in blue letters. To illustrate complementarity to *acrA*, the 5' end of seed regions is on the right-hand side. Seed regions are complementary to the 5' UTR (s2-s5), the TIR (s6-s13), the start codon (s14-s23), the 'five codon window' (s24-s30) and the coding region (s31-s38).









RybB-s7

























**Figure S2.** Secondary structure predictions for synthetic RybB sRNAs. Secondary structures were predicted using the RNAfold web server (http://rna.tbi.univie.ac.at/cgi-bin/RNAWebSuite/RNAfold.cgi). The colored bar indicates the base-pair probabilities. Wild-type (wt) RybB and the RybB scaffold (RybB-Δseed) are shown for comparison.



**Figure S3.** Phenotypic screening of synthetic RybB sRNAs with seed regions s2-s38. Seed regions were cloned into the pBAD derivative pSL0004 for inducible expression of synthetic RybB sRNAs. Stationary-phase cultures were inoculated in 96-well plates to monitor growth ( $OD_{600}$ ) in a plate reader. **(A)** LB medium contained oxacillin (OXA) at the indicated concentrations (0-200 µg/ml). Strains were treated with L-arabinose (+ L-ara) to induce sRNA expression or left untreated (- L-ara). The areas under the curves (AUC) were calculated and AUC values were subsequently used to calculate log<sub>2</sub> fold-changes (FC). Log<sub>2</sub> FC are illustrated in a heatmap. Wild-type (wt) RybB and the empty plasmid pSL0003 served as controls. **(B)** Growth curves for pBAD-RybB-s8 at 100 µg/ml oxacillin (OXA-100) with (blue) and without (red) addition of L-arabinose (L-ara). The dots show the measured optical density (OD) at 600 nm. The presence of oxacillin causes irregular growth curves with peaks at ~300 min due to cellular filamentation. **(C)** Correlation analysis of log<sub>2</sub> FC (-/+ L-ara) and IntaRNA energy predictions for sRNA-*acrA* pairs (multiplied by -1). Numbers at the right-hand side represent Pearson's *r* for individual subsets (5' UTR: 5' untranslated region; TIR: translation initiation region; ATG: start codon; CDR: coding region).



**Figure S4.** Oxacillin susceptibility assay. Stationary-phase cultures were serially diluted as indicated and spotted onto LB agar plates containing varying concentrations of oxacillin (OXA, 75 and 100 µg/ml; *cf.* Fig. 3E for 0-50 µg/ml). Plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. The empty plasmid pSL0009, wild-type RybB (RybB-wt), RybB lacking a seed region (RybB- $\Delta$ seed) and a plasmid containing the P<sub>L</sub>lacO-1 promoter (p-P<sub>L</sub>) were used as controls.



**Figure S5.** Secondary structures and seed regions for MicA, MicF and OmrB. Secondary structures were retrieved from RNAcentral (https://rnacentral.org/). Corresponding seed regions are marked in red.



**Figure S6.** Oxacillin susceptibility assay. Stationary-phase cultures were serially diluted as indicated and spotted onto LB agar plates containing varying concentrations of oxacillin (OXA, 100 and 125 µg/ml; *cf.* Fig. 5 for 0-75 µg/ml). Plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. Synthetic sRNAs containing the s8 seed region were compared to variants lacking a seed region ( $\Delta$ seed). The empty plasmid pSL0009 was used as a control.



**Figure S7.** Secondary structure predictions for synthetic sRNAs containing seed region s8. Secondary structures were predicted using the RNAfold web server (http://rna.tbi.univie.ac.at/cgi-bin/RNAWebSuite/RNAfold.cgi). The colored bar indicates the base-pair probabilities. Wild-type (wt) MicA, MicF and OmrB sRNAs and variants lacking a seed region ( $\Delta$ seed) are shown for comparison.



**Figure S8.** Secondary structure predictions for synthetic sRNAs containing seed region s8. Secondary structures were predicted using the Mfold web server (http://www.unafold.org/mfold/applications/rna-folding-form.php). Wild-type (wt) MicA, MicF and OmrB sRNAs and variants lacking a seed region ( $\Delta$ seed) are shown for comparison.



**Figure S9.** Stability assay for assembled constructs. **(A)** Constructs with dual sRNA TUs were assembled using high-complexity Golden Gate cloning with plasmid pSL0011 (Constructs 1-4; ranging from high identity to no identity). A construct with a single sRNA TU was used for comparison (Construct 5). Colors indicate identity of DNA parts. **(B)** Clones containing constructs were incubated separately (as biological duplicates) in a 96-well flat-bottom plate with 150 µl of LB and 50 µg/ml kanamycin per well. The plate was incubated at 180 rpm and 37 °C. After a 24-hours period, 1 µl of the cell suspension was collected in 50 µl dH<sub>2</sub>O and frozen for a screening PCR. At the same time, 1 µl of the cell suspension was inoculated in a new plate containing 150 µl LB and 50 µg/ml kanamycin for a new incubation period. This was repeated for five days (120 hours). The screening PCR was performed in a total volume of 10 µl, consisting of 5 µl OneTaq Quick-Load 2x Master Mix (NEB), 1 µl of frozen cell samples, 2 µl dH<sub>2</sub>O, and 1 µl of each 10 µM colony PCR primer (Table S2). The resulting PCR fragments were separated in a 2% agarose gel.

**Figure S10.** Exemplary transformation plate of the high-throughput plating procedure. Twelve transformation mixtures were plated in parallel by gravity flow of 20  $\mu$ l drops using a multi-channel pipette. Both panels show the same representative plate. The left panel shows the transformation plate without explanatory features, just the indication of the individual transformation (T1 to T12). The right panel indicates the positions where the drops were set (blue dotted circles). Grey arrows indicate the gravity flow direction. Red dotted lines separate the individual transformations (lanes) for clarification.

## Oligodeoxynucleotides

All oligodeoxynucleotides were ordered from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT, Coralville, USA) or Microsynth Seqlab (Göttingen, Germany) with standard desalting purification.

Forward sequence [5'-3']	Reverse sequence [5'-3']	Assembly piece	Resulting plasmid
<b>CCAT</b> GCCACTGCTTTTCTTT	<b>CATC</b> AAAGAAAAGCAGTGGC	16 nt native RybB seed region, variant 1	pSLcol_01.s01 p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-wt
<b>CCAT</b> GCGTTTATATTATCGT	<b>CATC</b> ACGATAATATAAACGC	16 nt seed region, variant 2, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s02
<b>CCAT</b> TAATAAACCCATTGCT	<b>CATC</b> AGCAATGGGTTTATTA	16 nt seed region, variant 3, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s03
<b>CCAT</b> GTCAATGGTCAAAAGT	<b>CATC</b> ACTTTTGACCATTGAC	16 nt seed region, variant 4, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s04
<b>CCAT</b> GTCCGATTTCAAATTG	<b>CATC</b> CAATTTGAAATCGGAC	16 nt seed region, variant 5, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s05
<b>CCAT</b> TATGTAAACCTCGAGT	<b>CATC</b> ACTCGAGGTTTACATA	16 nt seed region, variant 6, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s06
<b>CCAT</b> ATATGTAAACCTCGAG	<b>CATC</b> CTCGAGGTTTACATAT	16 nt seed region, variant 7, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s07
CCATCATATGTAAACCTCGA	<b>CATC</b> TCGAGGTTTACATATG	16 nt seed region, variant 8, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s08 p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-s8
	<b>GATG</b> TCGAGGTTTACATATG	16 nt seed region, variant 8, target: acrA	p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicA-s8
	<b>ATGA</b> TCGAGGTTTACATATG	16 nt seed region, variant 8, target: <i>acrA</i>	p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicF-s8
	<b>ACTT</b> TCGAGGTTTACATATG	16 nt seed region, variant 8, target: acrA	p-P <sub>L</sub> -OmrB-s8
<b>CCAT</b> TCATATGTAAACCTCG	<b>CATC</b> CGAGGTTTACATATGA	16 nt seed region, variant 9, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s09
<b>CCAT</b> TTCATATGTAAACCTC	<b>CATC</b> GAGGTTTACATATGAA	16 nt seed region, variant 10, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s10
<b>CCAT</b> GTTCATATGTAAACCT	<b>CATC</b> AGGTTTACATATGAAC	16 nt seed region, variant 11, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s11
<b>CCAT</b> TGTTCATATGTAAACC	<b>CATC</b> GGTTTACATATGAACA	16 nt seed region, variant 12, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s12
<b>CCAT</b> TTGTTCATATGTAAAC	<b>CATC</b> GTTTACATATGAACAA	16 nt seed region, variant 13, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s13
<b>CCAT</b> TTTGTTCATATGTAAA	<b>CATC</b> TTTACATATGAACAAA	16 nt seed region, variant 14, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s14
<b>CCAT</b> TTTTGTTCATATGTAA	<b>CATC</b> TTACATATGAACAAAA	16 nt seed region, variant 15, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s15
<b>CCAT</b> TTTTTGTTCATATGTA	<b>CATC</b> ΤΑCΑΤΑΤGΑΑCΑΑΑΑΑ	16 nt seed region, variant 16, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s16
<b>CCAT</b> GTTTTTGTTCATATGT	<b>CATC</b> ACATATGAACAAAAAC	16 nt seed region variant 17 target acrA	pSI col 01 s17
<b>CCAT</b> TGTTTTTGTTCATATG	<b>CATC</b> CATATGAACAAAAACA	16 nt seed region, variant 18, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s18
<b>CCAT</b> CTGTTTTTGTTCATAT	CATCATATGAACAAAAACAG	16 nt seed region, variant 19, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s19
<b>CCAT</b> TCTGTTTTTGTTCATA	<b>CATC</b> TATGAACAAAAACAGA	16 nt seed region, variant 20, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s20
<b>CCAT</b> CTCTGTTTTTGTTCAT	<b>CATC</b> ATGAACAAAAACAGAG	16 nt seed region, variant 21, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s21
<b>CCAT</b> CCTCTGTTTTTGTTCA	<b>CATC</b> TGAACAAAAACAGAGG	16 nt seed region, variant 22, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s22
<b>CCAT</b> CCCTCTGTTTTTGTTC	<b>CATC</b> GAACAAAAACAGAGGG	16 nt seed region, variant 23, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s23
<b>CCAT</b> ACCCTCTGTTTTTGTT	<b>CATC</b> AACAAAAACAGAGGGT	16 nt seed region, variant 24, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s24
<b>CCAT</b> AACCCTCTGTTTTTGT	<b>CATC</b> ACAAAAACAGAGGGTT	16 nt seed region, variant 25, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s25
<b>CCAT</b> AAACCCTCTGTTTTTG	<b>CATC</b> CAAAAACAGAGGGTTT	16 nt seed region, variant 26, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s26
<b>CCAT</b> TAAACCCTCTGTTTTT	<b>CATC</b> AAAAACAGAGGGTTTA	16 nt seed region, variant 27, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s27
<b>CCAT</b> GTAAACCCTCTGTTTT	<b>CATC</b> AAAACAGAGGGTTTAC	16 nt seed region, variant 28, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s28
<b>CCAT</b> CGTAAACCCTCTGTTT	<b>CATC</b> AAACAGAGGGTTTACG	16 nt seed region, variant 29, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s29
<b>CCAT</b> GCGTAAACCCTCTGTT	<b>CATC</b> AACAGAGGGTTTACGC	16 nt seed region, variant 30, target: acrA	pSLcol 01.s30
CCATAGAACGACCGCCAGAG	CATCCTCTGGCGGTCGTTCT	16 nt seed region, variant 31, target: <i>acrA</i>	pSLcol_01.s31
<b>CCAT</b> GCTGCCTGAGAGCATC	CATCGATGCTCTCAGGCAGC	16 nt seed region, variant 32, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s32
<b>CCAT</b> ATCCTGTTAGGGCTAA	<b>CATC</b> TTAGCCCTAACAGGAT	16 nt seed region, variant 33, target: <i>acrA</i>	pSLcol_01.s33
<b>CCAT</b> GCCTGTTTGTCGTCAC	<b>CATC</b> GTGACGACAAACAGGC	16 nt seed region, variant 34, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s34
<b>CCAT</b> CTGGCCACCTTGTTGG	CATCCCAACAAGGTGGCCAG	16 nt seed region, variant 35, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s35
<b>CCAT</b> CAACGGCGGGCATCTG	CATCCAGATGCCCGCCGTTG	16 nt seed region, variant 36, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s36
<b>CCAT</b> TTGACTGTTACTACGC	<b>CATC</b> GCGTAGTAACAGTCAA	16 nt seed region, variant 37, target: acrA	pSLcol_01.s37
<b>CCAT</b> CTGCAGAGGTTCAGTT	<b>CATC</b> AACTGAACCTCTGCAG	16 nt seed region, variant 38 for acrA	pSLcol_01.s38 p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-s38
<b>ACCA</b> TTGTGAGCGGATAACAA TTGACATTGTGAGCGGATAAC AAGATACTGAGCAC	<b>ATGG</b> GTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-wt p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-s28 p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-s38 p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicA-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicF-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -OmrB-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -S8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA
	<b>CATC</b> GTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -RybB-∆seed

 Table S1. Oligodeoxynucleotides used for Golden Gate cloning.

	GATGGTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicA-∆seed
	ATGAGTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	$p-P_L-MicF-\Delta seed$
	ACTTGTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -OmrB-∆seed
<b>TTC</b> TTGTGAGCGGATAACAAT TGACATTGTGAGCGGATAACA AGATACTGAGCACCCATG	<b>CCG</b> CATGGGTGCTCAGTATCT TGTTATCCGCTCACAATGTCA ATTGTTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub>
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>CATC</b> CCTGAAT TCAGAGATG	GCGAAGACAA <b>ATCC</b> GATACCG AACCGTTTGCG	MicA scaffold	p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicA-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicA-∆seed
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>TCAT</b> TTCTGAA TGTCTGTTTAC	GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>ATCC</b> CTGTGGT AGCACAGAATAATG	MicF scaffold	p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicF-s8 p-P <sub>L</sub> -MicF-∆seed
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>AGT</b> CAACTTC GGGTTGAG	GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>ATCC</b> GTCGGTT ACTGTTACAGATTG	OmrB scaffold	p-P₋-OmrB-s8 p-P₋-OmrB-∆seed
<b>CCAT</b> CATATGTAAACCTCGA	<b>GTAC</b> TCGAGGTTTACATATG	16 nt seed region, variant 8, target: <i>acrA</i>	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA
<b>CTTG</b> GTAAACCCTCTGTTTT	<b>TGCA</b> AAAACAGAGGGTTTAC	16 nt seed region, variant 28, target: <i>acrA</i>	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-MicA
<b>GCAA</b> TTGTGAGCGGATAACAA TTGACATTGTGAGCGGATAAC AAGATACTGAGCAC	<b>CAAG</b> GTGCTCAGTATCTTGTT ATCCGCTCACAATGTCAATTG TTATCCGCTCACAA	P <sub>L</sub> lacO-1 promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA
<b>GCAA</b> TTGACAGCTAGCTCAGT CCTAGGTATAATGCTAGC	<b>CAAG</b> GCTAGCATTATACCTAG GACTGAGCTAGCTGTCAA	P <sub>BBa_J23119</sub> promoter	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-MicA
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>GTAC</b> GATGTCC CCATTTTGTGGAG	GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>TTGC</b> GAGGGTT GCAGGGTAGTAG	RybB scaffold	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-MicA
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>TGCA</b> GATGTCC CCATTTTGTGGAG	GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>ATCC</b> GAGGGTT GCAGGGTAGTAG	RybB scaffold	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-RybB p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-RybB
GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>TGCA</b> CATCCCT GAATTCAGAGATG	GC <mark>GAAGAC</mark> AA <b>ATCC</b> GATACCG AACCGTTTGCG	MicA scaffold	p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>L</sub> -s28-MicA p-P <sub>L</sub> -s8-RybB-P <sub>J</sub> -s28-MicA

(bold: overhangs for Golden Gate cloning; red: Bbsl recognition sites)

Name	Sequence [5'-3']	Purpose
acrAB-KO-1	ACCATTGACCAATTTGAAATCGGACACTCGAGGTTTACATGCTCATATGAATATCCTCCTTAG	Forward primer for deletion of <i>acrA</i> and <i>acrAB</i>
acrAB-KO-2	AAAAAGGCCGCTTACGCGGCCTTAGTGATTACACGTTGTAGCCTTTGAGTGAG	Reverse primer for deletion of <i>acrAB</i>
acrA-KO-2	GATAAAGAAATTAGGCATGTCTTAACGGCTCCTGTTTAAGCTAGGCTAACTAA	Reverse primer for deletion of <i>acrA</i>
acrA-yfp-1	AGCCGCAAGCGGTGCTCAGCCTGAACAGTCCAAGTCTTAACCCGAATTCAGAGAAAGAGGAG	Forward primer for transcriptional fusion of acrA to syfp2
acrA-yfp-2	GATAAAGAAATTAGGCATGTCTTAACGGCTCCTGTTTAAGCTAGAGCTAACTAA	Reverse primer for transcriptional fusion of acrA to syfp2
acrA-yfp-5	TCGAGGTTTACATATGAACAAAAACAGAGGGGTTTACGCCTGTTAGCAAGGGCGAAGAACTTTTTAC	Forward primer for translational fusion of <i>acrA</i> first 9 codons to <i>syfp2</i>
acrA-yfp-6	GATAAAGAAATTAGGCATGTCTTAACGGCTCCTGTTTAAGCTAGGCTAACTAA	Reverse primer for translational fusion of <i>acrA</i> first 9 codons to <i>syfp2</i>
acrAB-scr-1	GTATGTACCATAGCACGACG	Screening of <i>acrA</i> and <i>acrAB</i> manipulations
acrAB-scr-2	GAGATCCTGAGTTGGTGG	Screening of <i>acrA</i> and <i>acrAB</i> manipulations
sYFP2_out	CGCGTCTTGTAGTTACCG	Screening of <i>acrA-syfp2</i> fusions
rybB-KO-1	AACCGCAGAACTTTTCCGCAGGGCATCAGTCTTAATTAGTGCTCATATGAATATCCTCCTTAG	Forward primer for deletion of <i>rybB</i>
rybB-KO-2	GTTGAGAGGGTTGCAGGGTAGTAGATAAGTTTTAGATAACGCCTTTGAGTGAG	Reverse primer for deletion of <i>rybB</i>
rybB-scr-1	GGTATGGCCAGGATTAGG	Screening of <i>rybB</i> deletion
rybB-scr-2	GAGGATGGTTGAGAGGG	Screening of <i>rybB</i> deletion
RybB-probe-2	GAAATGGCGGGGTTGATGGGCTCCACAAAATGGGGACATC	Detection of RybB
5S probe-2	CCTGGCAGTTCCCTACTCTCGCATGAGGAG	Detection of 5S rRNA
Mult-Targ-Scr- Fw	CTGTCAAATGGACGAAGCAG	Forward primer for colony PCR of Golden Gate constructs
Mult-Targ-Scr- Rev	CAGGCAAATTCTGTTTTATCAGACC	Reverse primer for colony PCR of Golden Gate constructs

## Table S2. Oligodeoxynucleotides used for $\lambda$ red recombineering, screening and Northern blot analysis.

(bold: overhangs for homologous recombination; underlined: sequences for PCR amplification)