BASIC RULES FOR THE CARE OF THE COMPOUND MICROSCOPE

1. Check the number on the microscope assigned to you with its corresponding place in the cabinet.

2. Grasp the microscope arm firmly with one hand and the base with the other hand, and lift the microscope carefully from the shelf. Hold it upright and close to your body when carrying it. Gently place it on the laboratory bench.

3. Uncoil the power cord just enough to plug it into the outlet. Also, check to make sure that the outlet does not need to be re-set (green light indicates that it is working).

4. Examine the microscope to see if any damage is apparent or if the microscope was put away in an unacceptable condition; if so, report this immediately to your instructor. Pay particular attention to make sure that cord is attached to the microscope.

5. USING LENS PAPER ONLY, clean all lenses, wiping several times. DO NOT use paper towels, bibulous paper, Kleenex, Kim wipes, clothing or other types of materials on the lenses. Use the following order for most efficient cleaning:
   a. Oculars (Eyepieces)
   b. Scanning objective (4x lens)
   c. Low power objective (10x lens)
   d. High power objective (40x lens)
   e. Oil objective (100x lens)
   f. Stage area
   g. Base area

6. Examine the stage. It should be free of oil, stains, and slides, and rolled down as far from the objectives as possible.

7. Turn on the light to make sure that it is functional.

8. Follow your lab manual and instructor’s directions for using the microscope.

9. At the end of your lab session, turn off the light and check the stage to make sure you have removed all slides.

10. IF USING IMMERSION OIL OR STAINS ONLY, clean with an alcohol wipe (or lens cleaner) in this order:
    a. Oculars (Eyepieces)
    b. Scanning objective (4x lens)
    c. Low power objective (10x lens)
    d. High power objective (40x lens)
    e. Oil objective (100x lens)
    f. Stage area
    g. Base area

11. ALL USING MICROSCOPES should wipe off all lenses using Lens Paper prior to storage (Repeat #5).

12. Rotate the nosepiece so that the Scanning objective (4x lens) is in the light path.

13. Roll the stage down so that the objectives and the stage are as far apart as possible.

14. Center the mechanical stage.

15. Unplug and wind the power cord around only the hooks. DO NOT leave the cord dangling in any way.

16. Carry the microscope as described in #2 back to the cabinet and return it to its proper place, paying special attention in making sure the oculars do not hit shelving, etc.

17. ALWAYS PLACE THE MICROSCOPE IN THE CABINET SO THAT THE ARM IS OUTWARD (FOR PICKING UP) AND THE STAGE IS INWARD (TO PROTECT EYEPieces).

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