



Ten Top Tips Towards Better Microscopy

1. A compound microscope gives a two-dimensional, flat image. Use a compound microscope for specimens to be examined using a slide preparation method (micro). There are monocular, dual-view, binocular and trinocular compound microscopes.
2. A Stereo Microscope has a binocular body and gives a three dimensional image. Use a stereo microscope for specimens that have depth or are large in size and require a working distance (macro).
3. Start to focus using the lowest magnification. In a compound microscope, this is the 4X objective. Make sure the objective "clicks" into place. In a stereo microscope, start by using the 1X.
4. Always place the specimen to be viewed in the center of the stage or stage plate. When using a compound microscope make certain the slide is placed on the stage with the center over the light.
5. When viewing a slide, make sure that it is right-side-up. This is especially important when using a prepared slide. If upside down, it will not be in focus on high power (40X)!
6. Focus first by using the coarse adjustment knob, then, the fine focus knob. You should be able to change from one objective (magnification) to another with just a minor fine focus adjustment. This means the microscope is parfocal.
7. Adjust the illumination by using the intensity control and condenser or diaphragm.
8. Remember, when using higher magnifications, it is necessary to adjust the light source.
9. Teach your students the proper care and handling of the microscope. Always carry a microscope by using two hands; one hand around the arm of the microscope and the other under the base of the scope.
10. Keep your microscope clean. To clean the lenses, first remove any dust and dirt by using a camel hair brush or canned air. Moisten the end of a Q-tip with lens cleaning solution. Keep the other end dry. Clean the optical surface with the moist end of the Q-tip using a circular motion. Dry the surface with the dry end of the Q-tip using a circular motion. A solution of Windex with vinegar works well. Use a dust cover to store when not in use.



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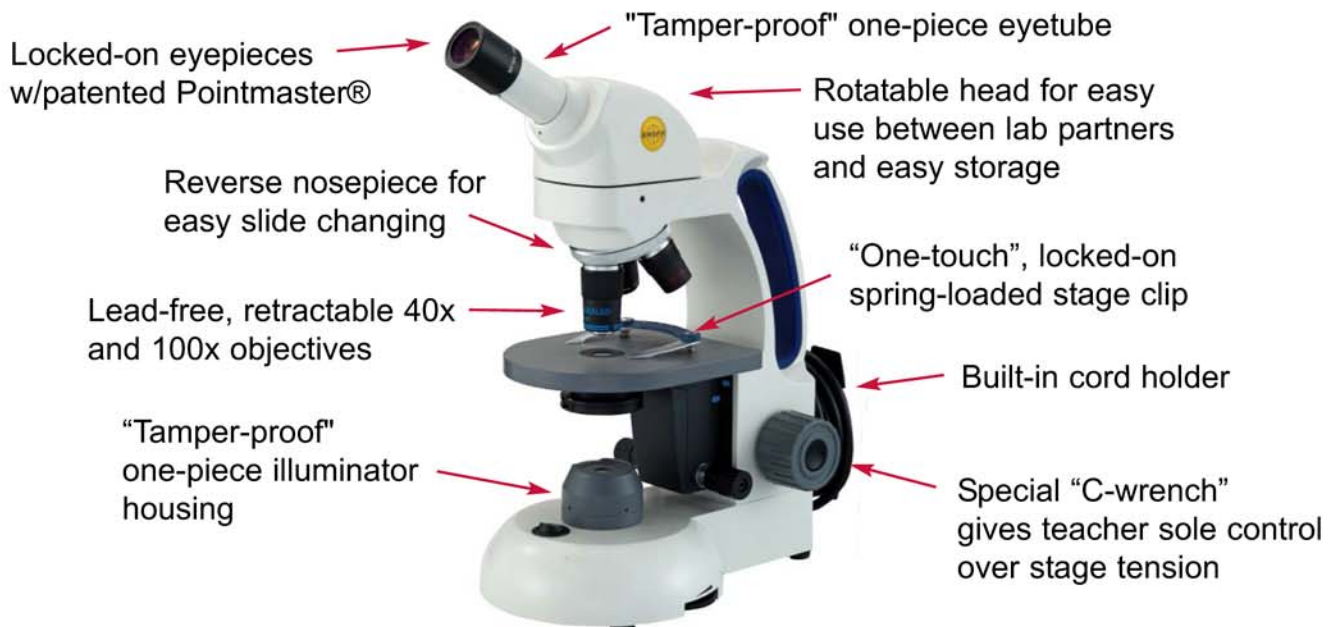


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Top Ten Features to Consider When Buying a Microscope:

1. Student-Proof Features: Locked-on eyepiece(s), one-piece head, retractable objective lenses, locked-on stage clips
2. All-metal construction
3. Built-in cord holder
4. Unique features: Lead-free optics, built-in carrying handle, Pointmaster eyepiece
5. Warranty
6. After-sales support
7. Energy-efficient illumination: cool light, low electricity use, long-lasting bulb, easy bulb access
8. Variable illumination
9. User manual
10. Standardized design to meet curriculum needs

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