

Watch out! This section contains a few common mistakes or practices that occur in this lab. Read this section before beginning your lab.

1. More light is not always better. Light levels need to be adjusted frequently to achieve the best contrast in the specimen.
2. Always move the specimen of interest to the center of the field of view before increasing magnification.
3. Once the specimen is in focus at low power, the coarse adjustment knob is not used/needed to focus at higher magnifications. Only the fine adjustment knob should be used to sharpen/focus the image from this point on.
4. Do not drop the stage when changing objectives. The objective will easily fit over the slide. The exception is if the slide mount is exceptionally thick. Your instructor will let you know if that is the case.
5. When preparing a wet mount, use only a single drop of water to suspend the specimen.
6. The coverslip is the clear plastic square placed over the wet mount specimen, not the paper square separating coverslips.
7. The compound light microscope can only be used with transparent specimens through which light can pass. The stereo microscope can be used with transparent and opaque specimens.