

## Re: Photomicrography ... objective questions (and general advice)

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- *From:* [bobmarable@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:bobmarable@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 20 Jul 2005 15:12:30 -0700
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frances\_0119 wrote:

- > I am considering purchasing a microscope for photomicrography (with a
- > Canon 300d). I am currently looking at Zeiss(Axiostar Plus) and
- > Nikon(E200). I'm leaning toward Nikon because I would have the chance
- > to try the scope out before purchase and have a local salesperson to
- > contact with any problems. With Zeiss, I would order online. I was
- > originally planning to spend around \$1500 but anticipate spending a bit
- > more than that, after looking at prices.
- >
- > My main concern is "what objectives to purchase" ... I'm trying to
- > balance quality with affordability.
- >
- > My hope is to be able to try out the Nikon with my camera, and also
- > with different "class" objectives. From what information I could gain
- > from the saleslady – I could only get a quote on a particular scope
- > instead of a comprehensive parts/price listing – the "standard" Nikon
- > achromat objectives aren't very good. She suggested the next step up
- > (still achromat) but was confident that I did not need
- > semi-apochromatic objectives. Regular apochromats are out of my price
- > range.
- >
- > So, my question is – what types of images would be best to show the
- > differences between achromat and semi-apochromatic objectives?
- > Differences that would show up in photographs, especially?
- >
- > I don't want to spend a lot of money on a microscope only to find,
- > later, that the cheaper objectives aren't suitable for photography. I
- > also don't want to spend more money than necessary, especially to get
- > started. But I want photographs with good color/optical quality.
- >
- > Any general advice is most welcome, too! I've just found an Olympus
- > dealer close by, so I'll probably be considering their microscopes as
- > well.
- >
- > Thanks,
- > ~frances

I'm just a hobbyist--- I have a Zeiss Axiostar, with a recently-acquired Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT camera. Here are my thoughts as an amateur:

-There's no such thing as lenses absolutely "working or not working" for photography, based solely on color-correction level. Plan apo's will give a better image than semi-apo's, which in turn will give a better image than achromats. However, achromats can produce some nice images---it all depends on what you're photographing, what your expectations/needs are, and how big your checkbook is. The central portion of an achromat's field of view can be a good image---crop out the peripheral area's, and voila!

-If a serious disease of mine were being diagnosed, I'd want Zeiss plan apo's with gold barrels and diamond lenses; if I'm making snapshots of paramicium races, achromats would be suitable; other uses, in between.

-My own choices, after some trial-and-error?? I'm using phase plan-achromats for my hobby photos (a good mix of cost/performance). I think plan lenses are worth the money, since a photograph's field-of-view shows edge detail more prominently than when viewed through an eyepiece (your attention is focused on the central area in an eyepiece). APO's/Semi APO's represent too large a chunk of limited funds, for marginal image improvement---2% better images cost 70% more money!?!?. I'd much rather spend those funds on other accessories, ie., phase contrast and darkfield systems, trinocular photo-tubes, remote shutter release accessories, right-angle viewfinder for SLR camera, books, and items that expand, simplify and enhance the photo process.

-Like many hobbies/endeavors, the deeper you get into it, the deeper you get!!! Lenses, while obviously of fundamental importance, are only the iceberg's tip, in the process of enjoyable photomicrography.

-Good Luck!!! And never stray too far from your checkbook...

Bob Marable

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• **References:**

◆ ***Photomicrography ... objective questions (and general advice)***

◇ From: frances\_0119

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