

Freeing the fine focus and replacing the course focus tension knob on the Zenith Biolam

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The fine focus on my Zenith Biolam developed backlash due to inadequate lubrication of the fine focus sliding plate. This 7mm plate is situated between the fixed block holding the stage and the moving limb housing the coarse focus controls. See

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjul04/iwlomo.html>

for illustrations. First remove the thrust plate and spring from the top of the fine focus sliding plate (Fig 3) – the part marked with a serial number, the Lomo logo and Made in USSR or Russia. Then remove the aluminium plate and plastic focus dial from underneath and remove the base (Fig 4). With the course focus adjustment tensioned it should be possible to pull the stage up and down to move the grease around on the fine focus sliding plate. Once it is sufficiently lubricated, reassemble ensuring that the base thrust pin (Fig 8) is located in the bottom of the fine focus sliding plate. Also ensure that the longer screw is correctly placed in the plastic focus dial as it acts as an end stop against the screw in the aluminium plate.

If the course focus tension knob comes off, push a blunt instrument into it to remove the end cap without damage. The nut can then be reattached. Don't glue the end cap back on with anything too strong in case it needs removing again.

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