

Re: Looking for compound Microscope

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.techniques.microscopy/2008-10/msg00016.html>

- *From:* George <logoss@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 13 Oct 2008 20:42:17 +0200
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On Sun, 12 Oct 2008 13:22:28 -0700 (PDT), Kevin Cunningham <smskjc@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Oct 12, 2:32 pm, TaNaKa <shu...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Well, I don't know where is the other message I post some weeks ago, but... anyway, first of all sorry for not respond before but as I said in my first message I haven't got Internet access at home and it was impossible to me get access until now.

Thank you very much for your help Kevin... I did just what you said. I contacted one of my doctors and he was able to put me in contact with two of his colleagues and with their help I manage to find an old Olympus BH-2, not in very good condition but cheaper than I thought. It has only two DPlan Achromats 4X and 10X objectives, so now I need to find better objectives to improve its quality. Maybe is not the best microscope in the world but I am quite happy. I just bought a 40X and a 100X oil Splan Achromats objectives but my intention in a no far future is gradually to get SPlan Apocromats optics. The microscope has a tinocular tube, so I could take photographs to share with the rest of the forum.

Another think I need is a microtome and chemicals to stain the sections. For the first I think a rotary microtome would be the best option. My intention is start observing botanical sections (Botany was what I studied when I was at university) but also animal tissues and protozoos. I've been searching the Net and I found some information about the "American Optical 820" Microtome. It seems to be quite old machine but I don't mind if it works. :-) Anyone know this machine and could tell me if it's possible to get a not too much expensive one that works here in Europe? The few I could locate through the net were in USA and the shipping cost were almost as expensive as the machine itself due to its weight... around 70 pounds. And for the second one anyone knows a good online where I could buy the chemicals I will need (fixatives, xylene, stains, etc)?

Well, I will be on holiday the next 6 days so I will have a little time to look for and to read the forum too. Sorry the length of the message and for my horrible English too.

Re: Looking for compound Microscope

Thanks a lot!!

Jose

On 7 sep, 22:43, Kevin Cunningham <sms...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jose,

The brand names you suggest are all junk. You should buy a used Zeiss (Opton), E. Leitz or Leica, Olympus or Nikon. I know that there are several dealers in Germany that sell quality used 'scopes. You could talk to you local hospital about how they get rid of their old equipment, that could be a real help.

Thanks,

Kevin Cunningham
SMS

Glad you got the BH-2, I know it well, a great microscope.

I doubt that you would really want to produce your own slides. The costs are far, far more than you realize. The real cost is the safety cost. You need storage bins with all the safety features so you can store chemicals. Then you need to purchase some relatively bad chemicals like zylene, a class three carcinogen. Then there are environmental dangers like air flow that you have to get right. And the list goes on and on. Plus you need a lot of instruction to be a good cutter. There are very sever differences between soft tissue of various kinds, muscle, bone and what's really fun is when one specimen contains all the types.

It's better to either look at prepared slides from a quality slide maker or have your slides prepared for you for a fair price. The other thing is were are you getting your specimens? The only place you can get human is yourself and that is bound to cause problems. Veterinary specimens are possible but you will need dissection tools at least then you have all the other problems. I'd take a long look at this before moving into histology.

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Thanks,

Kevin Cunningha

Also botany is a interesting field for microscopy and it is possible to obtain a lot of fresh sections of plant tissues.

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