

Set Up a Microscope in Six Steps.

A quick reference from switching it on to a sharp image at every power.

6

Low power first, then the light, then up

Most blurry, dim, or uneven images come from a skipped setup step. Work through these six in order at the start of every session.



SCAN FOR VIDEO

✓ Do This

Start at 4x, stage lowered

The widest view is the easiest place to find your specimen.

Slide on, coverslip up

Hold it under the stage clips, then turn the light up slowly.

Set the eyepieces

Slide them until you see one circle, then set the left diopter.

Coarse, then fine focus

Coarse until the specimen appears, fine until it is sharp.

Set the light (Köhler)

Close the field diaphragm, focus its edge with the condenser, center it, open it.

Move up in power

10x, then 40x, with the fine focus only.

✗ Avoid This

Starting at high power

The specimen is hard to find, and the lens can hit the slide.

Coarse focus at 40x or 100x

The lens sits just above the slide. Use the fine focus only.

Fixing contrast with the dimmer

Contrast is set at the aperture diaphragm, about two thirds open.

Oil on anything but the 100x

Oil on a dry objective causes a hazy image. Clean it off right away.

THE HABIT, EVERY TIME

STEP 1

Start at 4x

STEP 2

Slide on, light on

STEP 3

Eyepieces set

STEP 4

Coarse, then fine

STEP 5

Set Köhler

STEP 6

Up, fine only

Questions or want a hands-on refresher for your team?

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