

EcoBlue

BlueLine series



Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Euromex EcoBlue

The Euromex EcoBlue type microscopes are developed for use in schools and laboratories. Specific attention to production methods has resulted also in an excellent price/performance ratio

Please read this manual carefully before using this product to ensure correct and safe usage

The contents of this manual are subject to change without notice

The appearance of the actual product can differ from the models described in this manual

Not all equipment mentioned in this manual has to be part of the set you have purchased

All optics are anti-fungus treated and anti-reflection coated for maximum light throughput

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General safety instructions

Intended use: a non-medical device

This microscope is intended for general observation of cells and tissues, with transmitted/reflected illumination and with the specimen fixed on a slide

Suffocation hazard

The packaging can contain protective plastic bags without perforations, as well as dust protection bags that could be pulled over the head of a child. To avoid danger of suffocation:

- Keep the bags away from babies and children
- Tie a knot in plastic bags before throwing them out
- Plastic bags should be stored out of reach of children
- The installation and use of this product must always be supervised by a qualified adult

Dangers associated with the operation

- Improper use could result in injury, malfunction or damage to property. It must be ensured that the operator informs every user of existing hazards
- Danger of electrocution. Disconnect the power to the entire lighting system before installing, adding or changing any component
- Not to be used in corrosive or explosive environments
- Avoid direct exposure of eyes to the collimated light beam or direct light from the light guides or fibres
- To avoid a hazard to children, account for all parts and keep all packing materials in a safe place

Photobiological safety LED, important safety instructions

- Avoid direct eye exposure to any LED light source while switched on
- Before looking through the eyepieces of the microscope, lower the intensity of the LED illumination
- Avoid long and high-intensity exposure to LED light because this may cause acute damage to the retina of the eye

Prevention of biological and infectious hazards

Infectious, bacterial or viral biohazard substances under observation may be a risk to the health of humans and other living organisms. Special precautions should be taken during in vitro medical procedures:

- **Biological hazards:** keep a logbook of all the biological substances or pathogenic microorganisms that were under observation with the microscope and show it to everybody before they use the microscope or before they do some maintenance work on the microscope! Agents can be bacterial, spores, enveloped or non-enveloped virus particles, fungi or protozoa
- **Contamination hazard:**
 - A sample that is properly enclosed with a cover glass never comes in direct contact with the microscope parts. In that case prevention of contamination lies in the handling of the slides; as long as the slides are decontaminated before use and are undamaged and treated normally, there is virtually zero risk of contamination
 - A sample that is mounted on a slide without cover glass, can come in contact with components of the microscope and may be a hazard to humans and/or the environment. Therefore, check the microscope and accessories on possible contaminations. Clean the microscope surfaces and its components as thoroughly as possible. Should you identify a possible contamination, inform the local responsible person in your organisation
 - Microscope operators could be contaminated from other activities and cross-contaminate components of the microscope. Therefore, check the microscope and accessories on possible contaminations. Clean the microscope surfaces and its components as thoroughly as possible. Should you identify a possible contamination, inform the local responsible person in your organisation. It is recommended to wear sterile gloves when preparing the slides and handling the microscope in order to reduce contamination by the operator
- **Infection hazard:** direct contact with the focusing knobs, stage adjustments, stage and eyepieces/tubes of the microscope can be a potential source of bacterial and/or viral infections. The risk can be limited by using

personal eyeshades or eyepieces. You can also use personal protections such as operation gloves and/or safety goggles, which should be changed frequently to minimize the risk

- **Disinfectant hazards:** before cleaning or disinfecting, check if the room is adequately ventilated. If not, wear respiratory protective gear. Exposure to chemicals and aerosols can harm human eyes, skin and respiratory system. Do not inhale vapours. During disinfection, do not eat, drink or smoke. Used disinfectants must be disposed of according to local or national regulations for health and safety

Disinfection and decontamination:

- Exterior casing and mechanical surfaces must be wiped with a clean cloth, dampened with a disinfectant
- Soft plastic parts and rubber surfaces can be cleaned by gently wiping a clean cloth, dampened with a disinfectant. Discoloration can occur if alcohol is used
- The front lens of eyepieces and objectives are sensitive to chemicals. We recommend not to use aggressive disinfectants but to use lens paper or a soft fibre-free tissue, damped in cleaning solution. Cotton swabs may also be used. We recommend you use personal eyepieces without eyeshades in order to minimize risk
- Never immerse or dip the eyepiece or objective into a disinfectant liquid! This will damage the component
- Never use abrasive compounds or cleaners that may damage and scratch optical coatings
- Properly clean and disinfect all possible contaminated surfaces of the microscope or contaminated accessories before storing for future use. Disinfection procedures must be effective and appropriate
- Leave the disinfectant on the surface for the required exposure time, as specified by the manufacturer. If the disinfectant evaporates before the full exposure time, reapply disinfectant on the surface
- For disinfection against bacteria, use a 70% aqueous solution of isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol) and apply for at least 30 seconds. Against viruses, we recommend to refer to specific alcohol or non-alcohol based disinfection products for laboratories

Before returning a microscope for repair or maintenance through a Euromex dealer, an RMA (return authorization form) together with a decontamination statement must be filled in! This document - available from Euromex for any reseller- must be shipped together with the microscope at all times

Handle with care

- This product is a high quality optical instrument. Delicate handling is required
- Avoid subjecting it to sudden shocks and impacts
- Impacts, even small ones, can affect the precision of the instrument

Handling the LED

Note: Always disconnect the power cord from your microscope before handling the LED bulb and power unit and allow the system to cool down approximately 35 minutes to avoid burns

- Never touch the LED with your bare hands
- Dirt or fingerprints will reduce the life span and can result in uneven illumination, lowering the optical performance
- Use only original Euromex replacement LEDs
- The use of other products may cause malfunctions and will void warranty
- During use of the microscope the power unit will get hot; never touch it while in operation and allow the system to cool down approximately 35 minutes to avoid burns

Dirt on the lenses

- Dirt on or inside the optical components, such as eyepieces, lenses, etc., affects the image quality of your system negatively
- Always try to prevent your microscope from getting dirty by using the dust cover, prevent leaving fingerprints on the lenses and clean the outer surface of the lens regularly
- Cleaning optical components is a delicate matter. Please, read the cleaning instructions further on in this manual

Model with rechargeable batteries

- Always disconnect the power cord from the microscope before you replace the rechargeable batteries
- The rechargeable batteries must not be thrown away as regular trash but should be taken to special waste collection sites, according your local or national regulations
- Risk of explosion: when removing the rechargeable batteries, do not throw the batteries into fire or any other heat source
- Do not replace the rechargeable batteries with non-rechargeable batteries
- Avoid extreme environmental conditions and temperatures which could affect the rechargeable batteries and lead to fire, explosion or leakage of hazardous substances
- If the rechargeable batteries have leaked, avoid contact of the chemicals with skin, eyes and mucous membranes
- When in contact with the chemicals, flush the affected areas immediately with plenty of fresh water and seek medical attention

Environment, storage and use

- This product is a precision instrument and it should be used in a proper environment for optimal use
- Install your product indoors on a stable, vibration free and level surface in order to prevent this instrument to fall thereby harming the operator
- Do not place the product in direct sunlight
- The ambient temperature should be between 5 to +40°C and humidity should be within 80% and 50%
- Although the system is anti-mold treated, installing this product in a hot, humid location may still result in the formation of mold or condensation on lenses, impairing performance or causing malfunctions
- Never turn the right and left focus knobs in opposite directions at the same time or turn the coarse focus knob past its farthest point as this will damage this product
- Never use undue force when turning the knobs
- Make sure that the microscope system can dissipate its heat (fire hazard)
- Keep the microscope away from walls and obstructions for at least approximately 15 cm
- Never turn the microscope on when the dust cover is in place or when items are placed on the microscope
- Keep flammable fluids, fabric, etc. well out of the way

Disconnect power

Always disconnect your microscope from power before doing any maintenance, cleaning, assembling or replacing LEDs to prevent electric shocks

Prevent contact with water and other fluids

Never allow water or other fluids to come in contact with your microscope, this can cause short circuiting your device, causing malfunction and damage to your system

Moving and assembling

- This microscope is a relatively heavy system, consider this when moving and installing the system
- Always lift the microscope by holding the main body and base of the microscope
- Never lift or move the microscope by its focusing knobs, stage or head
- When needed, move the microscope with two persons instead of one

Components of the microscope

The names of the several parts are listed below and are indicated in the picture:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Photo tube with focus adjustment ring | L. Quick focus aid |
| B. Eyepieces | M. Condenser iris adjustment lever |
| C. Dioptic adjustment (bino and trino types) | N. Lamp housing |
| D. Head (mono/bino/trino 360° rotatable) | O. Slot for polarization filter |
| E. Allen screw to attach head | P. Dual illumination switch |
| F. Stand arm | Q. USB-C power input |
| G. Revolving nosepiece for 4 objectives | R. Slot for Kensington lock |
| H. Objectives | S. Height adjustment condenser |
| I. Safety device | T. Coaxial coarse-and fine adjustment |
| J. Object stages (X/Y and with clips) | U. X-Y stage controls |
| K. Color coded condenser with irisdiaphragm + filterholder | V. Light intensity adjustment control |



Models

The EcoBlue range microscopes are standard equipped with 1 or 2 widefield eyepieces WF10x (O) and achromatic objectives

Please note: On www.euromex.com you can find the latest updates about EcoBlue models and accessories

Objectives

The S40x, S60x and S100x objectives are equipped with a spring mount, to prevent damage to the front lens and the slide. The Numeric Aperture - N.A. - of the objective is an indication for the resolving power of the objective. The total magnification can be calculated by multiplying the magnification of the eyepiece with the magnification of the objective. The magnifications are displayed in the table below:

Eyeiece	Objective	Magnification
10x	4x	40x
10x	10x	100x
10x	40x	400x
10x	60x	600x
10x	100x	1000x

Preparing the microscope for use

Carefully remove the items from its packaging and place them on a flat, firm surface. Please do not expose the microscope to direct sunlight, high temperatures, damp, dust or acute shake. Make sure the table or surface is flat and horizontal

When moving the microscope, use the left hand to hold the transport handle and hold the base of the microscope with the right hand



Note: Hold the microscope at the top of the stand arm when it should be moved. Holding the microscope by its stage or focusing knob will damage the microscope



Caution! If the bacterial solution or water splatters splashes over the stage, objective or head, pull out the power cord immediately and dry the microscope



Assembling steps

Euromex Microscopes BV always tries to keep the number of assembly steps for their customers as low as possible but in some cases there are some steps to be taken. The steps mentioned below are often not necessary but described for your convenience nonetheless

Mounting the objectives

1. Rotate the coarse focusing knob to lower the stage to its lowest position
2. Install the objectives into the objective nosepiece from the lowest magnification to the highest in a clockwise direction from the rear side of the microscope. When using the microscope, start using the low magnification objective (4X or 10X) to search for specimen and focus, and then continue with high magnification objective to observe

Placing the eyepieces

The 360° rotatable heads are equipped with WF10x eyepiece(s) (B, p.6)

1. Remove the cover of eyepiece tube
2. Insert the eyepiece into the eyepiece tube
3. Lock the eyepieces with an Allen key



Locking the eyepieces

- To lock the eyepieces in binocular models please find the screw as indicated in picture (A). Please note that location can be slightly rotated from model to model.
- The monocular head versions are equipped with a pre-mounted WF10x eyepiece with pointer which can be rotated and is locked with a screw.
- Please remove the locking screw before taking out the eye piece to prevent damage. Please find the right position of screw as indicated in picture (B)



The eyeshades (optional)

The eyepieces can be equipped with optional rubber eyeshades. This prevents damage to the lens, and stray light. The eyeshade can simply be slipped over the eyepiece

Connecting the power cord

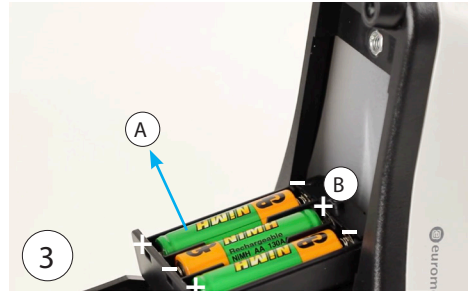
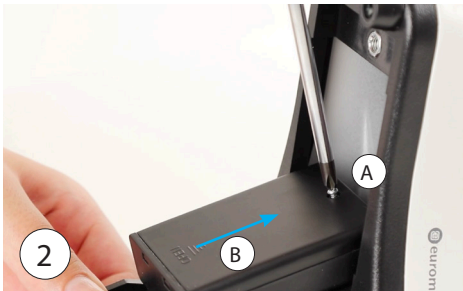
The EcoBlue series microscopes supported a wide range of operating voltages: from 100 to 240V. Please use a grounded power connection

1. Make sure the power switch is off before connecting
2. Insert the connector of power cord into the EcoBlue power socket, and make sure it connects well
3. Insert the other connector into the mains socket, and make sure it connects well

Do not bend or twist the power cord, it will be damaged. Use the power cord that is supplied by Euromex. If it's lost or damaged, choose one with the same specifications

Placing or replacing the rechargeable batteries

- Gently lay the EcoBlue on its side
- Unscrew the battery compartment (1)
- Use a cross screwdriver to unscrew the lid (2A)
- Take the lid off by pushing it slightly away from you (2B)
- Pry loose the batteries (3A)
- Put the AA rechargeable batteries in place **Note** the correct position (3B)
- Put the lid back and close the battery compartment (2 and 1)



Operation

Setting up the illumination:

For optimal contrast and resolution one should follow the below procedure below:

- Place a specimen on the object stage and focus using the 4x objective, with a fully opened iris diaphragm (M)
- Turn light intensity to lowest position (V), then look through the eyepiece(s) (B) and turn up the light intensity to a comfortable level
- Slide the condenser in the highest position (S)
- Close the iris diaphragm, until it is just visible on the edge of the field of view

The microscope is properly set for use with the 4x objective. For each other magnification in brightfield use, this procedure should be repeated to ensure the best balance between contrast and resolution



Caution:

The maximum light intensity when using the 4x and 10x can cause damage to the eyes!

Placing the specimen slide

On the EC.1001, EC.1101, EC.1601, EC.1005, EC.1605 and all polarisation polarization models the slide is placed beneath the object clips. On the other models into the clamp of the mechanical stage (PF1, p.6) and can be carefully moved into X- and Y- directions

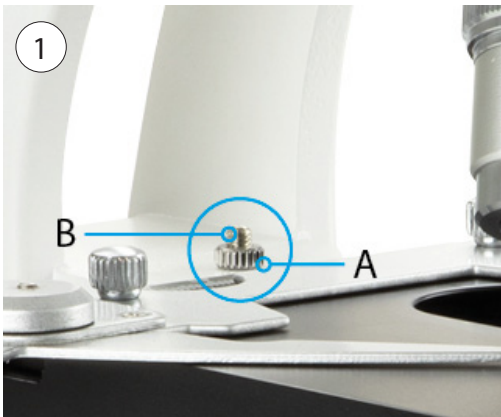
- Push the arm of the specimen holder backwards
- Release the arm slowly clamping the slide with the cover glass facing up
- Rotating Turning X-Y stage controls (N, p.6) the X and Y-axis knob will move the specimen to the center for alignment with the center of the objective

Focusing* and slide protection

1. Select the 4x objective and make sure that it is placed correctly in the optical path
2. Place a slide on the stage
3. Beneath the object stage an Abbe condenser N.A. 1.25 is mounted. The condenser can be adjusted in height by moving the lever beneath the (mechanical) stage. By adjusting the condenser you can focus the light on the specimen for an optimized contrast. The condenser is factory pre-centered
4. Move the (mechanical) stage upwards with the use of the coarse focusing knob until you get an image through the eyepiece(s)
5. Use the fine focusing knob to focus on the image
6. The EcoBlue comes with a slide protection system. The slide protection system protects the slide by limiting the travel range of the mechanical stage. This way the objectives will not touch or break your slides. This is factory preset
7. It could occur that small adjustments to the slide protection system need to be made, for example:
 - if the stage can be moved up too high and the slide is close to breaking, the slide protection system screw (1B) needs to be screwed in further
 - if the 40x & 100x cannot get into focus the slide protection system screw needs to be screwed in less deep
8. To adjust the slide protection system screw you need to unlock the slide protection ring (1A). Then use an Allen key to change the position of the slide protection screw(B). After the screw has been set, secure the ring again
9. When you perform focusing with a S100x objective, you need to lock the slide protection screw (F). The slide protection screw protects the slide by limiting the travel range of the mechanical stage. This way the objectives will not touch or break your slides

* Quick focus aid (2)

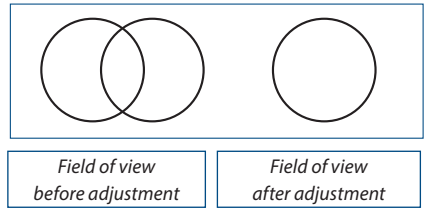
By aligning the quick focus mark, the samples is placed in or close to the focus area of the objective. After this the user only needs some small corrections in stage height to fully focus the sample



Eyepieces

Using a binocular (or trinocular) tube is less tiring for the eyes than a monocular tube. In order to obtain a smooth "compound" image, we recommend you to follow the below steps below

1. The interpupillary distance



The correct interpupillary distance is reached when one round image is seen in the field of view (see image below). This distance can be set by either pulling moving the tubes towards each other or pulling moving them away from each other. This distance is different for each observer and thus should be set individually. When more users are working with the microscope it is recommended to remember your interpupillary distance for a quick set-up during new microscopy sessions

2. The correct eye point

The eye point is the distance from the eyepiece to the user's pupil. To obtain the correct eye point, move the eyes towards the eyepieces until a sharp image is reached at a full field of view

3. Adjusting the diopter

- Set diopter adjustment ring to zero.
- Close the left eye and focus the right tube by adjusting the coarse- and fine adjustment knobs.
- Close the right eye and focus the left tube with the diopter adjustment ring

This procedure should be followed by each individual user. When more users are working on the same microscope it is recommended to remember your own diopter setting for a quick set set-up during new microscopy sessions

Abbe condenser

The condenser is mounted underneath the object stage. By adjusting the condenser height, using lever (A), you can manipulate the light to obtain optimized specimen contrast

The condenser is factory pre-centered but when needed, the following procedure explains how to center the condenser

1. Move the condenser to its highest position
2. Select the 4x or 10x objective and place it into the light path and focus on the specimen
3. Close the iris (B) until it comes into view
4. Adjust the condenser height to the point where the iris is most in focus
5. Use an Allen key for screws (C) to reposition the iris so that it is in the center of the view



Use of the S100x oil-immersion objective

Some EcoBlue microscopes are equipped with an S100x N.A. 1.25 oil immersion objective. Please follow the below instructions below on how to use this objective:

1. Remove the dust protection cap from the revolving nosepiece to mount the S100x objective (the objective can be premounted)
2. Focus the image with the S40x objective
3. Lock the slide protection handle
4. Turn the revolving nosepiece so the S100x objective almost reaches the click-stop
5. Put a small drop of immersion oil on the center of the slide (always use Euromex Immersion oil)
6. Now turn the S100x objective so that you feel the click stop
7. The front lens is in contact with the immersion oil
8. Look through the eyepiece and focus the image with the fine adjustment knobs
9. The distance between the lens of the objective and the slide is very small!
10. In case there are small bubbles visible, turn the S100x objective a couple of times from left to right so that the front of the objective moves in the oil and the bubbles will disappear
11. After using the S100x objective, loosen the slide protection handle and turn the table with the course adjustment knobs downwards until the front lens doesn't touch the oil any longer. Clean the front lens of the S100x objective
12. Always clean the front lens of the S100x objective with a piece of lens paper that is moistened with a drop of isopropanol. We recommend using Euromex lens paper and isopropanol
13. Clean the slide after use as well



Caution

Never put a drop of xylol or alcohol directly on the lens of the objective. It could enter the objective and dissolve the glue that holds the lenses! Avoid oil contact with any of the other objectives!

Safety device

To prevent damage to the objective lens, or breaking the slide, all types are equipped with a pre-fixed safety device. It is recommended to use slides with a thickness of 1.0 – 1.2 mm thickness (product numbers: PB.5150, PB.5155, PB.5160) in combination with cover glasses with a thickness of 0.13 mm or 0.17 mm thickness (product numbers: PB.5165, PB.5168)

Illumination EcoBlue

The EcoBlue has the option to switch between two colors(temperature) of illumination. Switching between these is done by using switch (X). The microscope is powered by either using the mains adapter or with the included rechargeable batteries.

The microscope offers up to 48 hours of battery operation depending on illumination settings and battery power/condition. At first use the batteries will have to be fully charged which takes up to 10 hours.

It is highly recommended to use the microscope with power supply disconnected to keep the batteries in good working condition and always recharge batteries directly after they run empty

The illumination has the following specifications:

- LED : 1W, 300 mA and (monocular versions only)
- NeoLED : 1W, 300mA equipped with Fresnel lens (for binocular and trinocular models)
- Charger/power supply : Primary AC 100 - 240 Volt-50Hz
- Batteries : 3 NiMh, AA type, 1.2 Volt 1600 - 2600 mA

Maintenance and cleaning

Always place the dust cover over your EcoBlue microscope after use. Always keep the eyepiece and objectives mounted on the microscope to avoid dust entering the instrument

Cleaning the optics

When the eyepiece lens or front lens of the 10x or S40x objective are dirty, they can be cleaned by wiping a piece of lens paper over the surface (circular movements). When this does not help put a drop of alcohol on the lens paper and wipe it. Never put xylol or alcohol directly on the lens! Please note that Euromex offers a special microscope cleaning kit: PB.5275

It is not necessary – and not recommended – to clean the lens surfaces at the inner side of the objectives. Sometimes dust can be removed with high pressured air. There will never be dust in the objectives if the objectives are not removed from the revolving nosepiece



Caution

Cleaning cloths containing plastic fibers can damage the coating of the lenses!

Maintenance of the stand

Dust can be removed with a brush. In case the stand or table is really dirty then you can clean the surface with a non-aggressive cleaning product

All moving parts like the height adjustment or the coaxial course and fine adjustment contain ball bearings that are not dust sensitive. With a drop of sewing-machine oil you can lubricate the bearing

Changing the batteries of the EcoBlue



Caution:

Always remove the power cable from the mains supply!

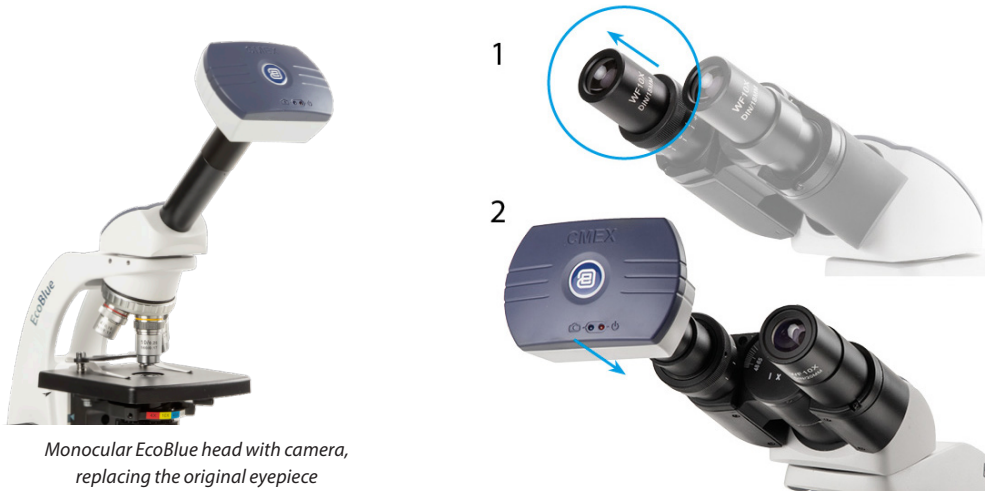
- Open the small lid at of the bottom cover of the microscope by unscrewing the chrome screw.
- Open battery compartment with small Philips screwdriver
- (Re)place the batteries and put the lid back into its place.

Digital models and cameras

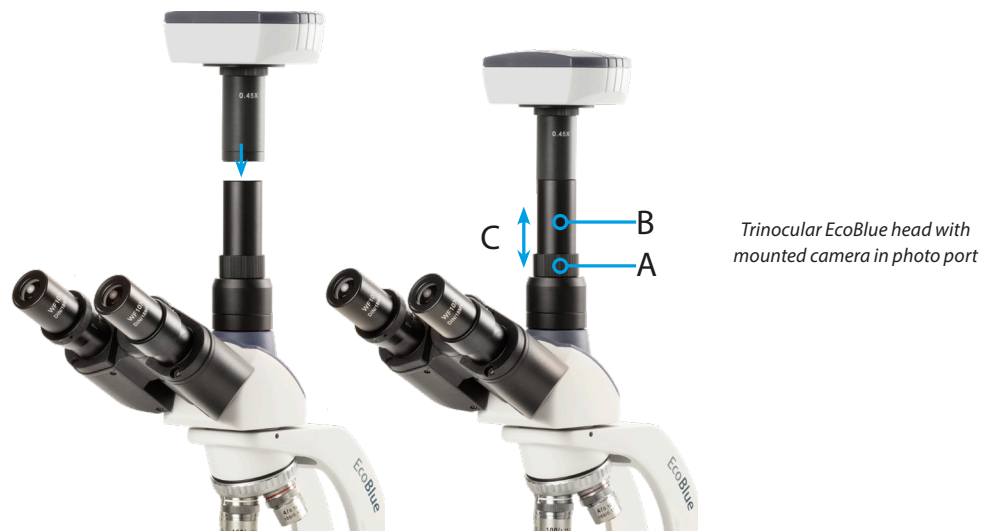
Digital models are equipped with a build in digital camera inside. Connect the supplied USB cable to camera and follow the dedicated software manual for use. The LED which is placed beside the USB port will start to blink when activated in the software



Digital cameras are designed to be used on the photo port of the microscope head. It is also possible to use the digital camera in combination with a monocular, binocular or discussion head. Simply remove the eyepiece and place the camera with mounted attached c-mount adapter into the eyepiece tube. Focus the digital image with the coarse and fine controls of the microscope



For trinocular models, slide the camera with mounted attached c-mount adapter into the 23.2mm tube of the photo port. For focussing, loosen the ring (A) and slowly unscrew the tube (B) you will be able to match parfocality of the camera with the view through the eyepieces. Adjustment can be made by raising/lowering the height of the camera (C). Take an easy-to-view specimen and focus the image through the microscope's eyepieces (with dioptr adjustment set on to "0"). Afterwards, perform this height adjustment procedure while watching the image on the computer screen. In this case, once you have obtained parfocality in the device, screw the ring (A) back. Follow the manual that comes with the camera for camera operation.



Polarization models

A microscope for polarization consists of a standard optical microscope but with two polarization filters. One filter is positioned between the illumination of the microscope and the condenser of the microscope and one filter between the preparation sample and the eyepieces of the microscope

Polarization filters used in microscopes are thin-film linear polarizers and are made from a glass substrate on which a special optical coating is applied

Only light waves that vibrate in the same propagation plane pass through the filter. All other light rays that vibrate in another plane don't pass the polarizer. Two perpendicular positioned (crossed) polarizers result in the nearly complete extinction of the light

An isotropic inorganic material has directionally depending properties. Microscopes for polarization can be used to identify crystalline materials (minerals), fibers like asbestos, amyloids, collagens, determine the orientation of crystals, etc

Models

The EcoBlue-POL microscopes are standard equipped with 1 or 2 widefield eyepieces WF10x (B, p.6) and achromatic objectives

Please note: On www.euromex.com you can find the latest updates about EcoBlue models and accessories

Components

Hereunder the specific components of the microscope for polarization

- A.** Equipped with analyzer, mounted in a slider under the head
- B.** Round graduated stage
- C.** 360° Rotatable, graduated polarizer on the lamp house

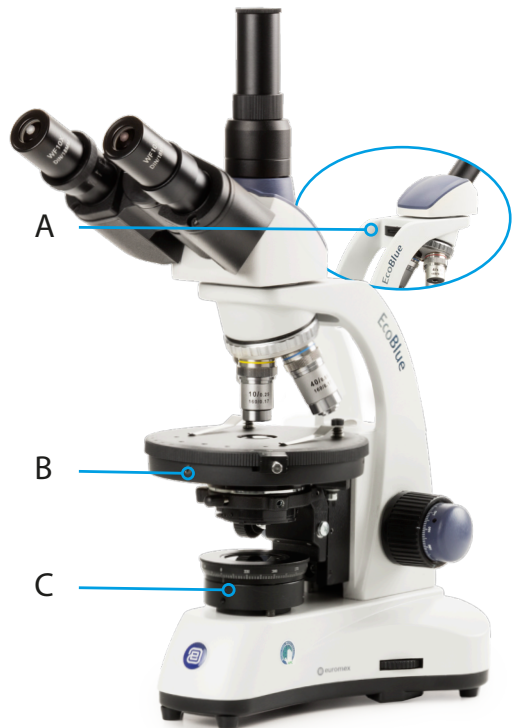
Illumination EcoBlue-POL serie

The models for polarization are supplied with H-LED illumination for correct color rendering (very similar to the halogen light spectrum)

Note: 20 W halogen illumination is also available for polarization models on special request

The illumination has the following specifications:

- HLED : 1W, 300 mA
- Charger : Primary AC 100 - 240 Volt-50Hz



Using the polarized illumination

For the EcoBlue-POL models:

- Switch on the illumination of the microscope, position the prepared sample on the rotating stage (B, p.15C)
- Check if the polarizer (BC, p.15) is in place above the illumination of the microscope
- Check if the analyzer (A) is also positioned in the optical path
- Turn the polarizer (BC, p.15) till maximum extinction of the light is obtained
- Put the sample on the stage. Polarization sensitive material can be observed in terms of colors.
- Center the region of interest
- By turning the rotating stage and by observation of the color changes and angles, one can identify the material
- Without polarizers one can work in brightfield

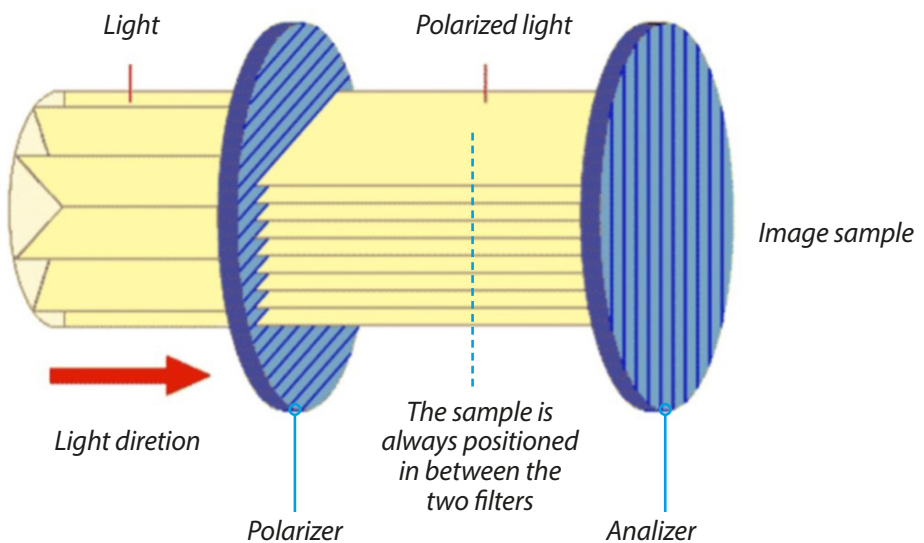


Diagram 1 – Crossed Nicols position Example

Accessories and spare parts

For current accessories and spares, please visit our website www.euromex.com

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