

NEW AND/OR INTERESTING IN MICROSCOPY

☛ **FLASH** - Philips NV (PHG) has just announced that it will divest nine smaller operating companies - included in which is Edax International. The other eight companies are: Philips Power Systems, Thermocoax, Philips TV Test Equipment, Philips Weighing and Philips Electronic Center, Philips Industrial Automation Systems, PBF and Philips Kistaindustri. There is no available information as who may be purchasing Edax.

☛ Leica, Inc., Diatome US and Electron Microscopy Sciences announce a three-day seminar. The focus of this workshop will be the "hands on" preparation of a variety of materials samples. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own samples in addition to those selected by the course facility.

The course will be held at the University of Pennsylvania, Laboratory for the Research of the Structure of Matter, in Philadelphia, PA. The dates will be June 11-13, 1997. You are invited to join for this one of a kind opportunity to learn ultramicrotomy from some of the world's leading ultramicrotomy experts.

For more information, call Ann Korsen at (800)248-0665, X5010

☛ News from Digital Instruments:

- DI is moving to new 50,000 sq. ft. facilities in Santa Barbara, CA. The new building is located at 112 Robin Hill Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93117 and is less than five minutes from the Santa Barbara Airport. It will include extensive clean room facilities and additional laboratory, research, training, test, and office space.

- NanoScope® users from around the world will meet to discuss their work and join in the celebration as DI commemorates its 10th anniversary at the 1997 International NanoScope Users Conference, August 24-27, 1997. The event will be held on the seaside campus of the University of

California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). NanoScope users who wish to attend should reserve space now. For more information, contact Marlene Carlyle, Digital Instruments, 520 East Montecito St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, Tel.: (805)899-3380.

- DI announces the opening of a new East Coast Applications Lab to provide local and more rapid response to its customers. It is located at 223 Wilmington-Westchester Pike, Ste. 114, Chad's Ford, PA 19317. Tel.: (610)361-9550, Fax: (610)361-9551, eMail: matt@di.com

☛ The Scanning Microscopy 1997 Meeting will be held on May 10/14 '97 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel. The meeting is largely international in scope and consists of tutorials on Saturday and Sunday (May 10 and 11) and scientific sessions (organized as several mini-meetings; up to 8 parallel sessions a day) on various topics. Papers are still being offered, nearly 350 presentations have been already scheduled. For further information, contact Om Johari: Tel.: (847)524-6677, Fax: (847)985-6698, eMail: 73211.@compuserve.com

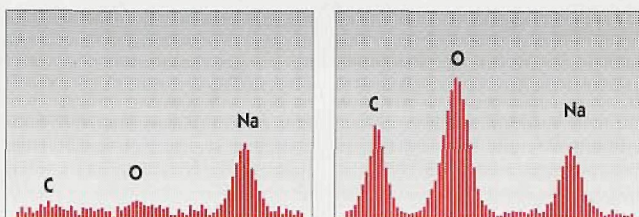
This will be the 30th Scanning Microscopy Meeting and the last held by Om Johari.

From all of us who have benefited from Om's service and many contributions over the years, we offer him a sincere thanks and best wishes in his future.....Ed.

☛ Speaking of anniversaries, we offer our congratulations to Peter Stolzenberg who, with his company Pesto Incorporated, completes 30 years of service to the industry. Pesto Incorporated specializes in electron microscope service and maintenance in the Northeast, and in the purchase and sale of used microscopes. Pesto Incorporated: (215)699-6160, Fax: (215)699-5275.

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Decades of Experience In EM Specimen Prep Equipment

Slide Preparations: Heater for Mountants

James Denko, Microspec Analytical

In the past, I have used mountants such as **DIATEX** (which is a synthetic mountant of 40% acrylic resin solids, and 60% toluene), or Canada Balsam in xylene for general purpose mountants. If a tight seal of resin forms around the coverslip, the prep is usually good for some time and may last indefinitely. However, the center of the prep still contains resin mixed with solvent that has not had a chance to evaporate. If the solvent continues to evaporate slowly from the prep, large air bubbles will replace the solvent and ruin the prep.

One way around this is to use a mountant with little or no solvent. This means that the mountant must be heated to make it fluid at a higher temperature so it can be added to the prep as a liquid which will then become a solid at room temperature.

Rather than dedicating a small hotplate and a balsam bottle to this task, I have found it more convenient to use a small "hot pot" used for hot melt glues that can be found in many craft stores. This item has a plastic housing and contains a small electric heater set at roughly 240° F (115° C) used to heat the metal glue pot. Normally, a hot melt glue stick is loaded and allowed to melt into the pot. The glue chamber volume is roughly 10-15 mL, having dimensions of 4.5 x 4.5 x 1 cm. It can be unplugged and stored with mountant in the chamber until needed and becomes hot enough to use in a matter of a few minutes. The entire unit costs only \$5.00.

Clear, hot melt glue sticks make a useable, but viscous mountant, but any small air bubbles introduced when making a slide are almost impossible to eliminate. The advantage of this hot pot, however, is that you are not restricted to glue sticks. You can use anything that suits your needs. I prefer to use a 1:1 mixture of Canada balsam and one clear 2" glue stick to make a less viscous mountant that still has more body than balsam alone. I also have another pot reserved for pure Canada balsam. Try it!!

MICROSCOPIST

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, a world leader in tire development and manufacturing, has an excellent opportunity for a professional skilled in Microscopy in its Analytical Sciences Department, Corporate Research Division, located in Akron, Ohio. This position involves the analysis and characterization of polymers and materials used in the tire and rubber industry.

Qualified candidates must have a Ph.D. or MS with 3 years experience in light, electron and atomic force microscopy with a strong background in image analysis. Current experience should include techniques employed in polarized light, brightfield, phase contrast, fluorescence, interference microscopy and photomicrography. Knowledge of transmission and scanning electron microscopy and EDS systems is also required. Familiarity with failure analysis and mixing studies of rubber, plastics and composites is desirable.

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