

Storing samples between glass microscope slides

A pair of hinged glass microscope slides make an ideal container to store samples, provided that the inside surfaces of the slides are completely free of particles and other contaminants. Recommended procedure:

1. Clean the slides, then inspect the inside surfaces with a stereomicroscope to ensure the absence of visible contaminants.
2. Hinge the slides together using two short pieces of 3M #810 magic tape (Fig. 1, blue painters tape is used below for visual emphasis).
3. Re-inspect the inside surface of the slides with a stereomicroscope before collecting and transferring the sample to a single point in the well of the bottom slide.
4. Close the plain top slide and press firmly; the appearance of Newton rings will indicate adequate contact between the slides. Secure the slides closed using one or two pieces of tape, as shown below (Fig. 2). Fold over one end of the tape so it can be easily peeled back to open the slide container.
5. Mark the approximate position of the sample on the outside of the bottom slide using a Sharpie marker. Also, label the slide with an appropriate number or other descriptor.

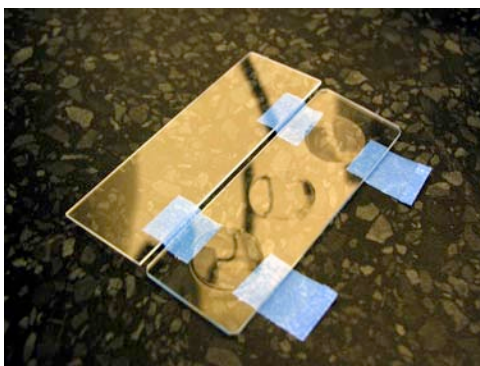


Figure 1

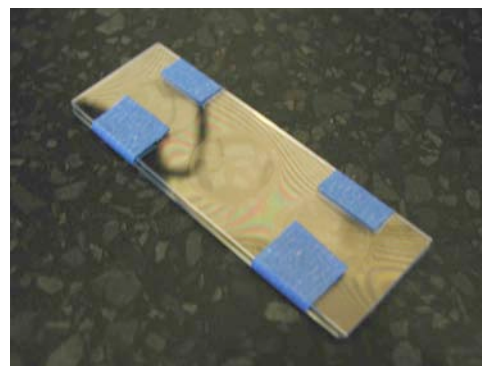


Figure 2

Slide container supplies



Scotch® Magic™ Tape 810

Office supply stores, grocers, pharmacies



Glass Depression Slides

Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc.
<http://www.aquaticeco.com/>
1-877-347-4788

#M30 1 Well \$4.25 for 12

#M31 2 Well \$6.95 for 12

Magnifiers

Magnification is recommended select and collect samples and to verify that containers are free of visible contaminants prior to receipt of samples. Orion uses a stereobinocular microscope onsite and in the laboratory. If one does not have a stereobinocular microscope, then a low-cost magnifying loupe may be helpful.



Peak 8x slide magnifier loupe

<http://www.amazon.com>



Jeweler's 10x pocket magnifier with LED

<http://www.amazon.com>

Packing samples for shipping to Orion

To help ensure that sample containers do not break in transit, please do not send glass slide containers or other fragile containers (e.g., glass vials, gel capsules, flexible plastic vials) in flat envelopes unprotected.



Instead, pack sample containers in a sturdy box, such as those provided by common carriers.

