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INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
MODEL 131-RLED  
COMPOUND MICROSCOPES

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For optimum viewing satisfaction, follow these simple procedures. Nomenclature used to describe components and controls can be identified by referring to the diagram at left.

## **UNPACKING**

1. Carefully remove microscope, dustcover, 0.9mm L hex key wrench, "C" wrench for tension adjustment and recharger. Always handle and move microscope by securely holding the arm of microscope. Avoid touching any of the lens surfaces while handling the microscope. Dust, dirt, or fingerprints can damage the delicate lens surfaces or adversely affect image quality.
2. Examine packing material before you discard it. Retain the styrofoam container in case you need to transport, store, or return the microscope for service. If it becomes necessary to ship the microscope for any reason, pack it in the styrofoam container, and then pack the styrofoam in another corrugated shipping container for optimum protection. Use of the styrofoam alone will not provide adequate protection in transit, and will void your warranty.

## **DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS**

1. **EYEPIECE** (ocular lens) Lens closest to the eye, magnifies the primary image formed by the objective lens. The eyepiece is equipped with a "pointer" that rotates as the eyepiece is turned.
2. **OBJECTIVE TURRET** (nosepiece) Revolving turret which holds objective lenses, permits changes of magnification by rotating different powered objective lenses into optical path.
3. **OBJECTIVE LENS** Lens closest to the object being viewed, forms first magnified image of the specimen.
4. **STAGE CLIPS** Two locked-on clips hold specimen slide in place on stage. Note: Your microscope is already drilled and tapped to accept an optional mechanical stage. Mechanical stage replaces stage clips and permits precise, mechanical manipulation of the specimen slide.
5. **STAGE** Platform of the microscope where the specimen slide is placed.
6. **CONDENSER LENS** A specially designed condenser lens, fixed in center of stage, condenses light rays from substage illumination and fills the back lens element of objective lens to improve image resolution.
7. **DISC DIAPHRAGM** Rotating disc located below stage, with holes of various apertures, designed to help achieve optimum resolution of the objective lens. Larger apertures used for higher magnifications, and smaller apertures used for lower magnification.
8. **SAFETY RACK STOP** When properly adjusted, controls maximum upward travel of stage. Prevents higher power objectives from breaking specimen slides, prevents damage to objective lenses. This stop has been pre-adjusted at the factory.
9. **FOCUSING KNOBS** Coarse focusing knobs (larger knobs) located on each side of arm, raise or lower stage to bring specimen image into focus. Fine focus knobs (smaller knobs located just below coarse focusing knobs) permit more precise image adjustment.
10. **ILLUMINATION** Built-in substage electric LED illuminator provides constant, reliable, pre-focused illumination equal to a 20-watt tungsten bulb. Powered by 3 rechargeable AA nickel metal hydride batteries, no power outlet or electrical cord is needed.

## **OPERATION**

1. Place microscope directly in front of you in a manner which permits you to comfortably look into the eyepiece. Note that the head of microscope rotates 360°, permitting you to operate the microscope from the front or from the back, whichever is most convenient for you. It also permits convenient sharing of microscope by more than one user, by simply rotating head, without needing to move entire microscope. Most users will position the microscope with the arm facing them so that focusing knobs are most convenient to reach.

2. Assure that light is available for illuminating the specimen.
  - a. Your microscope has special LED illumination that is powered by 3 rechargeable AA nickel metal hydride batteries (supplied). These batteries may be recharged, as required, using the recharger (supplied). Each set of batteries may be recharged approximately 500 times before replacing, and each charge will provide up to 50 hours of microscope operation. The LED component (bulb) will last for up to 50,000 hours before replacement is required.

### **WARNING**

**DO NOT USE regular AA alkaline batteries. Use of other than rechargeable AA nickel metal hydride batteries could result in batteries exploding during recharge. ONLY USE THE SUPPLIED SWITCHING BATTERY RECHARGER WITH AUTOMATIC “TRICKLE CHARGE”.**

- b. It is recommended that you charge the batteries before initial use and after prolonged storage as the batteries may have discharged. Plug output cord from battery charger into DC recharging socket located on back of microscope base. Your automatic switching recharger operates on 100 to 240 volts AC 50/60 Hz. Plug recharger into your AC wall outlet. Battery recharger is also equipped with an automatic “trickle charge” feature, the red LED indicator lamp located on recharger will be illuminated when batteries are receiving maximum charge. After batteries are charged, the red LED indicator lamp will turn to green and charger automatically switches to “trickle charge”. The charger can be left plugged in, but for safety reasons it is a good idea to disconnect the charger from the AC wall outlet and the output cord from recharging socket after 12 hours. Batteries and charger may feel warm when charging, and unplugging the recharger is a safety precaution.

Note that your microscope can be used during recharging. **Simply turn “on/off” rheostat switch located on microscope base to “on” position, rotate intensity knob until image is illuminated and proceed as follows.**

- c. In case of equipment malfunction, see Troubleshooting procedures located at the back of this manual.
3. Rotate coarse focus knobs to move stage down (away) from objective lens as far as possible.
  4. Place specimen slide, cover slip facing up, on stage with specimen centered over condenser lens in middle of stage.
  5. Rotate disc diaphragm until largest aperture is positioned beneath condenser in center of stage.
  6. Turn the objective turret until the 4x (smallest) objective lens “clicks” into position in the optical path. Note that each time you change from one objective lens to another you should turn the turret until you hear the “click”, which indicates that the lens is properly indexed in the optical path.
  7. While looking through the eyepiece, rotate coarse focusing knobs until specimen comes into focus. If image does not appear in field of view, move specimen slide slightly until image appears in field of view.
  8. Adjust fine focus controls until specimen is in sharp focus.
  9. Turn the disc diaphragm, observing that different apertures affect the sharpness of the image. Turn diaphragm until sharpest possible image is obtained. Note that when turning the disc diaphragm, you should hear a “click” as each aperture comes into proper position under the condenser lens. If aperture is not properly positioned, you will observe shadows in the field of view when looking through the microscope.
10. Changing magnification
    - a. Magnification is changed by rotating objective turret until different objective lens is moved into optical path. Always turn turret until you hear the “click”, indicating that lens is properly indexed. Otherwise, you will not be able to see anything when looking through the microscope.
    - b. Standard lenses provided with your microscope are a widefield 10x eyepiece. 4x, 10x, and 40x objectives. The 40x objective lens has a special spring retractable mechanism which retracts slightly if front of lens comes in contact with the specimen slide. See chart below for specifications on objectives.

## Objective Specification Chart

Objective	N.A.	Color Code Ring	Field of View	Working Distance	Magnification with WF10X eyepiece
Din 4X	0.10	Red	4.5mm	18.5mm	40X
Din 10X	0.25	Yellow	1.8mm	6.4mm	100X
Din 40X retractable	0.65	Blue	0.45mm	0.5mm	400X

- c. Also note that each objective has a color ring, which permits you to instruct changes in magnification by referring to an easily observed color rather than to a number.
- d. The microscope has been parfocalled at the factory, which allows easy change from one magnification to another, requiring little or no adjustment of the fine focus knobs.
- e. As magnification is increased, the field of view (area of specimen seen through the microscope) will decrease. That is why it is easier to find the specific area of interest on the specimen by starting with the lowest 4x objective lens, before increasing magnification with the 10x or 40x objective lens.
- f. NOTE: Care must be taken when rotating the 40x objective into place. This lens has a spring retractable mechanism which retracts slightly into its housing if the front of the lens strikes the specimen slide. With fine focus adjustment at mid-range, the rack stop has been adjusted at the factory to assure the 40x lens will clear the thickness of a normal specimen slide and cover slip. However, if the rack stop has been improperly adjusted, or if using a thicker than normal slide or cover slip, moving the 40x lens too quickly or carelessly could cause damage to the front lens element or to the slide.
- g. Do not let the front lens element come into contact with a wet slide surface, as prolonged contact with any moisture could damage the lens. If lens is exposed to moisture, promptly wipe with soft tissue to remove moisture.

## MAINTENANCE

**WARNING: For your own safety, turn switch to OFF position. Remove adapter from the power source and detach plug from jack located at back of microscope base before maintaining microscope.**

### 1. OPTICAL MAINTENANCE

Do not attempt to disassemble any lens components. Consult a microscope service technician when any repairs not covered by instructions are needed.

Prior to cleaning any lens surface, brush dust or dirt off lens surfaces using a camel hair brush. Or use air to blow dust and lint off surfaces. Use of compressed air in a can, available at any computer supply store, is a good source of clean air.

Do not remove eyepieces or objective lenses to clean. Clean only the outer lens surface. Breath on lens to dampen surface, then wipe with lens paper or tissue or use a cotton swab moistened with distilled water. Wipe lenses with a circular motion, applying as little pressure as possible. Avoid wiping dry lens surface as lenses are scratched easily. If excessive dirt or grease gets on lens surfaces, a small amount of Windex can be used on a cotton swab or lens tissue. To clean objective lenses, do not remove objectives from microscope. Clean front lens element only, following same procedure.

NOTE: Fingerprints or other matter on the front lens element of the objective lens is the single most common reason that you will have difficulty in focusing the microscope. Before having costly servicing done, or before returning to National for "warranty repair", make certain to examine the front lens element with a magnifying glass or eye loupe for the presence of such contaminants. If a microscope is returned to National for warranty repair, and it is determined that such contaminants are the problem, this is not covered under warranty and National will submit a cost estimate for cleaning.

### 2. MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE

- a. The rack stop screw has been pre-adjusted at the factory and should not require re-adjustment. However, if you do attempt re-adjustment, note the following procedure.

Loosen round knurled locking nut by turning counter-clockwise. Then loosen stop screw. With fine focus adjustment at mid-range, focus on standard slide until sharp image is obtained. Rotate rack stop screw in clockwise direction until tight. Lock into position with the locking nut. A needle nose plier might be needed to loosen the round locking nut.

- b. Coarse focus tension adjustment prevents the stage from drifting down from its own weight and causing the image to move out of focus. This has been adjusted at the factory, but over the course of time it may loosen and cause the stage of the microscope to slip downward on the focusing block.

The tension adjustment collar is located between arm and coarse focus knob on left side of microscope. With a small jewelers screwdriver, loosen the set screw located in only one of the four holes on tension adjustment collar. Using supplied "C" wrench, insert pin of the wrench into one of the holes located on tension adjustment collar, turn collar clockwise to tighten tension, counter-clockwise to loosen tension. After adjusting, tighten the set screw to lock collar in place.

NOTE: It is recommended that you leave the tension as loose as possible for ease of focusing, yet not so loose that it permits the stage of microscope to drift downward from its own weight and cause the microscope to "drift" out of focus.

- c. Metal parts: Use a clean, damp cloth to remove dust or dirt from metal parts, followed by a dry cloth.

### 3. ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE

The extent of electrical maintenance, by other than a qualified technician, should be LED replacement, battery recharging and battery replacement. Before maintenance, be sure that recharger is not connected to microscope.

- a. Recharging batteries:

Plug output cord from battery charger into DC recharging socket located on back of microscope base. Your automatic switching recharger operates on 100 to 240 volts AC 50/60 Hz, plug recharger into your AC wall outlet. The red LED indicator lamp located on recharger will be illuminated when batteries are receiving maximum charge. After batteries are charged, the red LED indicator lamp will turn to green and charger automatically switches to "trickle charge". The charger can be left plugged in, but for safety reasons it is a good idea to disconnect the charger from the AC wall outlet and the output cord from recharging socket after 12 hours. Batteries and charger may feel warm when charging, and unplugging the recharger is a safety precaution.

You may operate the microscope light even while it is being recharged. Simply flip light switch to "on" position and continue using microscope while the recharger is fully engaged.

- b. Replacing batteries:

Your microscope includes 3 rechargeable AA nickel metal hydride batteries. These may be recharged up to 500 times, but if you observe that a recharge is providing significantly less than 40 hours of operation. It is probably time to replace to batteries.

**IMPORTANT WARNING: DO NOT USE REGULAR ALKALINE BATTERIES IN THIS MICROSCOPE. ANY ATTEMPT TO RECHARGE ALKALINE TYPE BATTERIES COULD RESULT IN BATTERIES EXPLODING.**

Gently lay microscope on its side or back. Observe small door in center of microscope bottom base. Loosen slotted screw on door and open. Battery case is mounted on inside of door. Using small Phillips screwdriver, carefully remove Phillips screw that holds battery case together. Slide lid of case straight out to remove and expose batteries. Remove all 3 batteries and replace with new rechargeable AA nickel metal hydride batteries, making certain to insert with correct polarity according to markings on battery holder. Replace lid, close and secure door.

Follow instructions on new battery packaging to determine if they are already charged, or if they should be charged before initial use. If recharging is required, following directions in "3.a" above.

- c. Replacing LED element:

An LED “bulb” will last up to 50,000 hours so you don’t have to do this exercise very often.

To open the illuminators field lens housing, use 0.9mm “L” type hex key wrench supplied with your microscope. Loosen hex screws on lens housing. Remove lens housing to expose LED “bulb”. Remove bulb by grasping the plastic base of bulb and gently pulling straight up. Insert new LED “bulb”, replace lens housing and tighten hex screw to secure lens housing in place.

**TROUBLESHOOTING**

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>REASON FOR PROBLEM</b>	<b>SOLUTION</b>
Light fails to operate.	Batteries fully discharged. Rheostat control not turned far enough. Light switch in off position. LED “bulb” burned out.	Recharge batteries. Turn rheostat to increase light intensity. Turn light switch on. Replace LED “bulb”.
Image does not remain in focus	Stage of microscope drops from its own weight.	Adjust tension control.
Unable to focus image	Rack stop not set at proper position. Slide upside down. Slide cover slip too thick.	Adjust rack stop. Place slide on stage with cover slip up. Use 0.17mm thick cover slip (No.1 cover slip)
Poor resolution (image not sharp)	Objective lenses dirty. Eyepiece lens dirty. Too much light.	Clean objective lenses. Clean eyepiece lenses. Adjust iris diaphragm.
Spots in field of view.	Eyepiece or condenser lens dirty. Specimen slide dirty.	Clean lens. *** Clean slide.
***Spots in field of view can also result from dirt on inside of eyepiece. It is recommended that you have service technician clean inside of lens.		

**OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES AND PARTS:**

- #610-045R      WF10x eyepiece w/reticle, 10mm/100div.
- #615-045      WF15x eyepiece w/pointer
- #760-045      DIN 60xR objective lens, N.A. 0.90
- #800-001      Replacement LED light
- #802-003      Replacement auto cut-off recharger for rechargeable LED microscopes.
- #910            Graduated mechanical stage, side mount adjustments (installed by end user)
- #951            Dustcover, 16” tall x 13”, heavy vinyl with stitched seams.
- #975-001      Carrying case, anodized aluminum, fabric lining, accessory pockets, Velcro straps, keyed lock.

**LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY**

Please see our website, [www.nationaloptical.com](http://www.nationaloptical.com) for complete details and exclusions.