

## “With the user, for the user” Leica Microsystems

The statement by Ernst Leitz in 1907, “with the user, for the user,” describes the fruitful collaboration with end users and driving force of innovation at Leica Microsystems. We have developed five brand values to live up to this tradition: Pioneering, High-end Quality, Team Spirit, Dedication to Science, and Continuous Improvement. For us, living up to these values means: **Living up to Life.**

### Leica Microsystems – Active worldwide

|                         |                           |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Australia:              | North Ryde                | Tel. +61 2 8870 3500    | Fax +61 2 9878 1055    |
| Austria:                | Vienna                    | Tel. +43 1 486 80 50 0  | Fax +43 1 486 80 50 30 |
| Belgium:                | Groot Bijgaarden          | Tel. +32 2 790 98 50    | Fax +32 2 790 98 68    |
| Canada:                 | Richmond Hill/<br>Ontario | Tel. +1 905 762 2000    | Fax +1 905 762 8937    |
| Denmark:                | Herlev                    | Tel. +45 4454 0101      | Fax +45 4454 0111      |
| France:                 | Nanterre Cedex            | Tel. +33 811 000 664    | Fax +33 1 56 05 23 23  |
| Germany:                | Wetzlar                   | Tel. +49 64 41 29 40 00 | Fax +49 64 41 29 41 55 |
| Italy:                  | Milano                    | Tel. +39 02 574 861     | Fax +39 02 574 03392   |
| Japan:                  | Tokio                     | Tel. +81 3 5421 2800    | Fax +81 3 5421 2896    |
| Korea:                  | Seoul                     | Tel. +82 2 514 65 43    | Fax +82 2 514 65 48    |
| Netherlands:            | Rijswijk                  | Tel. +31 70 4132 100    | Fax +31 70 4132 109    |
| People's Rep. of China: | Hong Kong                 | Tel. +852 2564 6699     | Fax +852 2564 4163     |
| Portugal:               | Lisbon                    | Tel. +351 21 388 9112   | Fax +351 21 385 4668   |
| Singapore:              |                           | Tel. +65 6779 7823      | Fax +65 6773 0628      |
| Spain:                  | Barcelona                 | Tel. +34 93 494 95 30   | Fax +34 93 494 95 32   |
| Sweden:                 | Kista                     | Tel. +46 8 625 45 45    | Fax +46 8 625 45 10    |
| Switzerland:            | Heerbrugg                 | Tel. +41 71 726 34 34   | Fax +41 71 726 34 44   |
| United Kingdom:         | Milton Keynes             | Tel. +44 1908 246 246   | Fax +44 1908 609 992   |
| USA:                    | Bannockburn/<br>Illinois  | Tel. +1 847 405 0123    | Fax +1 847 405 0164    |

and representatives in more than 100 countries

Leica Microsystems operates globally in four divisions, where we rank with the market leaders

- Life Science Division
- Industry Division
- Biosystems Division
- Surgical Division

Leica Microsystems CMS GmbH  
Ernst-Leitz-Straße 17–37  
35578 Wetzlar  
Tel.: (0 64 41) 29 24 09  
Fax: (0 64 41) 29 22 55  
[www.leica-microsystems.com](http://www.leica-microsystems.com)

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## Cleaning of Microscope Optics

Living up to Life

**Leica**  
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Order No.: 11914709

## 1 Considerations before cleaning

### Which image quality do you expect?

Optimize all microscope settings:

Aperture, Köhler, correction ring, etc.

### Check your specimen

I Use standard with proven quality

II Use cleaned specimen

### Check slide and cover glass

### Check immersion medium

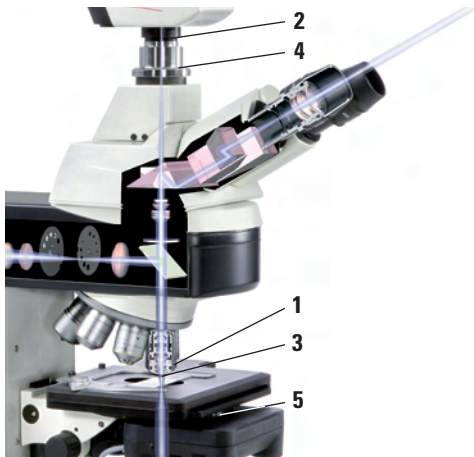
I Same type as embedding medium of specimen

II Is immersion medium from the same lot?

III Only use recommended types

IV No Anisol

## 2 Where to clean and where not



### Where to clean

1 Front lens of objective

2 Cover glass of camera sensor

3 Cover slip and specimen slide

4 C-mount

5 Condenser lens

6 Misc. glass surfaces

### Where not to clean

I Filter cubes

II All inside optics of a microscope

## 3 How to locate dirt

### Turn camera and inspect image

I If dirt is turning in the image → not located in camera

II If dirt stays → camera

### Turn objective, condenser, C-mount

I If dirt is turning with image → objective, condenser, etc.

### Control the relevant elements macroscopically

I Magnifying glass or oculars upside down

### Front lens

I Turn it

II Look from the back against a bright background

## 4 Different kinds of dirt

### Loosely or not permanently attached dirt

I Glass (broken slides, cover slips, etc.)

II Skin, dander

III Pollen, etc.

### Attached dirt

I Water soluble

II Solvent soluble

III In practice often a mixture

## 5 How to clean

### Aim of cleaning

I Complete elimination of dust and dirt for perfect image quality

II No remaining residues on the optical parts

III No damage of optical parts

### General procedure

I Locate dirt

II Inspect dirt

III Remove dust

IV Remove water soluble dirt

V Remove solvent soluble dirt

VI Inspect result

VII Repeat from III to VI if necessary

### Remove dust

I If possible do it manually

II Only use specified compressed air  
a Contamination with oil may cause difficulties to remove residues

III Perfect tool: bellows



### Remove attached dirt

I Never use rubbing materials, papers, microfibre cloths

II Never clean dry

III Always start to clean water soluble dirt

a If you can see grease start with solvents

IV All solvents for cleaning should be absolutely clean

a PA solvents (ultra pure)

b Distilled or demineralized water

c No ammonium containing glass cleaner like Sidolin, Sparkle, etc.

V All tools should be absolutely clean

a Use certified wound cotton sticks and dental cotton pads to avoid lint (no Q-tips or similar!)

### Remove water soluble dirt

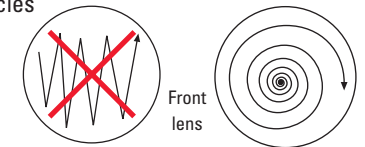
I Use only clean, deionised water

a Simple method: breathe upon the surface

II Use a cotton stick

a Clean from the centre toward the edge in concentric circles

III Inspect result



### Remove solvent soluble dirt

I Use ultra pure solvents

a Ethanol PA

b Acetone PA (be careful, may harm plastics and objective labels)

II Use a cotton stick, dental cotton pad

a Cotton stick and cotton pad should only be moist, not dropping wet

b Clean from the centre toward the edge in concentric circles

III Inspect result

IV Still smudgy?

a Combine the methods: breathe upon the surface and clean with cotton stick and acetone

Leica Optics Cleaning Kit

Order number **11505508**