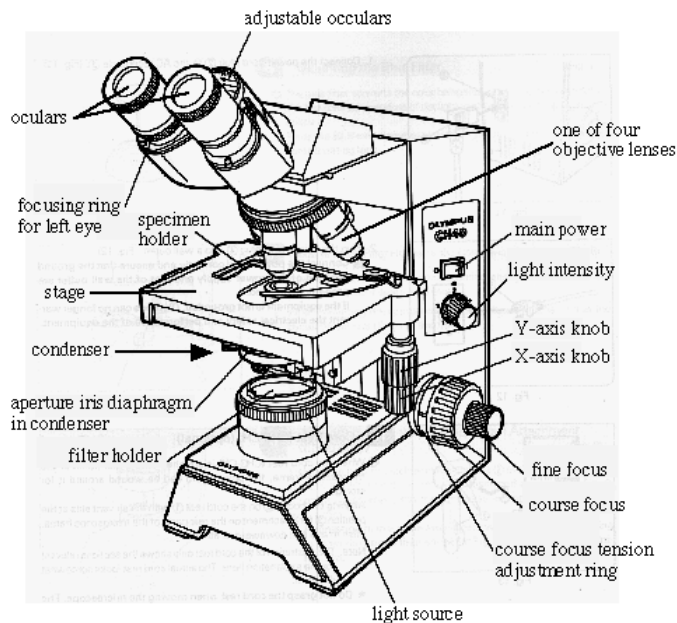




Microscope Essentials for FEC-sters



This diagram of a generic, light microscope provides labels for all the parts of a microscope you should try to become familiar with when undertaking faecal egg counts. While most of the parts are common to all light microscopes (although some knobs and switches might be in different positions), it is important to know that FECs *cannot be carried out with all microscopes*.

FEC microscopes **MUST** have a mechanical stage like the one in the diagram

Don't inadvertently buy the wrong microscope based on its low price as such microscopes probably won't have a mechanical stage – the part that holds the slide steady while you operate either of two knobs (the X-axis knob and the Y-axis knob) that will move the stage left and right, back and forth so you can count the eggs in each grid of the modified McMaster slide chamber.

Oculars

While this diagram is of a binocular microscope (ie, two eyepieces, or oculars), FECs can just as easily be undertaken with just one ocular. Two oculars are most often used by people who spend a lot of time on the microscope (like me!)

**Most FECs use 100x magnification (although 40x is ok once you are familiar with the process)
This means your microscope should have a 10x ocular (eyepiece) and a 10x objective (10x10=100)**

Buy the right microscope first time through EBW's own shop.