

SOP for usage of the RM2135 Rotary Microtome

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1. Lock the handwheel (right side wheel) by turning the locking lever below the wheel clockwise.
2. Insert a new razor blade and cover with the blade guard.
3. Check the clearance angle – it should read 4 degrees, which works well. However, this can be adjusted for your tissue by loosening the middle locking lever on the right side.
4. Loosen the left side clamping lever and slide the knife holder base to the use the left side of the razor for block trimming.
5. Mount your precooled paraffin block in the cassette clamp – prechilling on an ice bath with a top layer of water or soaked paper towels helps rehydrate the tissues and get better sections.
6. Move the specimen to the rear limit by turning the coarse feed wheel on the left side.
7. Approach the knife to the specimen, by loosening the bottom right locking lever and sliding the base forward. Leave a small amount of room between the blade and specimen.
8. (Optional) Orient the specimen to the blade by unlocking the lever on the specimen holder and turning the knobs of the specimen holder to adjust the vertical and horizontal tilt of the specimen.
9. Pull the grey waste tray out into position to catch the trimmings.
10. Remove the knife guard and unlock the hand wheel.
11. Hold the trimming lever down (left side). The single dot is 10um and the double dots is 30um. Begin turning the handwheel to trim the block to the desired depth.
12. Release the trimming lever and set the dial to the appropriate section thickness.
13. Loosen the left side clamping lever and slide the knife holder base to the middle position to use the middle of the razor for sectioning.
14. Rotate the handwheel clockwise to generate thin sections.

Changing Specimens

1. Lock the handwheel with the specimen holder in the upper position (right side wheel) by turning the locking lever below the wheel clockwise.
2. Engage the blade guard.
3. Return to step 4 above.

Cleanup

1. Sweep any paraffin sections into the waste tray.
2. Spray the surfaces with 100% ethanol and wipe away any wax residue.
3. Dump paper towels from tray into the trash can and make sure it's clean and wax free for the next user.

