

ON THE MARKET

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



BX41 lab microscope with DP11 microscope digital camera system.

A successor to the BX40, the new BX41 laboratory microscope from Olympus offers a refined design and increased optical capability. This model features a new precise-motion stage for left- and right-hand use, with stage tension that can be adjusted to suit individual preferences. Moreover, continuous observation over the wide objective range from x1.25 to x100 is now possible without changing the condenser. Fluorescence microscopy is also possible with the new incident light fluorescence illuminator whose aspherical illumination lenses are said to produce nearly twice the conventional brightness. The trinocular attachment enables the use of the new DP11 microscope digital camera system.

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A new five-lens lamp collector and extensive changes to the fluorescence system are design characteristics of the new Axioplan 2 imaging machine that increase light throughput in the fluorescence epicondenser and improve color correction. Contrast in the final image is significantly amplified, says Zeiss, with the addition of the new 'light trap' technology. Moreover, the company says that the eight-position filter turret maximizes flexibility without compromising the viewed field. Extension of the turret makes Axioplan 2 imaging suitable for M-FISH applications and for automation in multi-user environments where the full range of techniques — brightfield, darkfield, phase-contrast, DIC, Pol and fluorescence — are required.

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SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

Universal Imaging has released an upgrade to its MetaMorph bioimaging software system. Version 4.5 provides entry-level and advanced users with the ability to perform advanced microscope automation, acquire and analyze fluorescent and transmitted light images, and make intracellular ion measurements using single wavelength or ratio imaging dyes. This latest version includes a streamlined interface, an interactive training CD and new functions for advanced image acquisition, processing and analysis. To make live cell imaging more accessible to new users, the MetaMorph system now features application-specific toolbars, such as the fluorescence tools for acquiring multiple wavelengths from digital cameras, measuring co-localization between probes and overlaying images.

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BioDiscovery has launched a redesigned ImaGene DNA microarray and high-density membrane image analysis software. Version 4.0 allows ImaGene to operate with any array image, whether slides or membranes from any manufacturer scanned by any scanner. It offers the user an interactive image segmentation tool for optimizing image-processing settings for high quality image processing. Users can vary segmentation thresholds to visualize change in signal and background pixels and choose the best analysis parameters. ImaGene's operability is designed around required information flow, which starts with the image, goes through the grid placement and spot finding and ends with image analysis. Modularity and flexibility are offered with the Image Processing Module and the Data Analysis Module called Gene-Sight-Lite. The user can load multiple images (one per laser color) and process them simultaneously, thus achieving increased image-processing throughput.

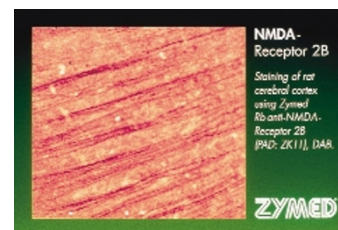
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The technique of total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy can be used to observe and measure membrane-associated processes in living cells, biolog-

ical or chemical events at liquid-solid interfaces and even single molecule dynamics. TILL-Photonics offers a new total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy set-up that is based on its high-speed imaging system and the Olympus Apo x100/1.65 objective. The new optical design of the system and the extreme numerical aperture of the objective allow varying the incident angle by almost 10°. The fluorescence signal is collected through the full numerical aperture (no central annulus). With this design, all advantages of the objective setup — full access to the specimen, easy handling and adjustment — are combined with the advantages of a classical prism setup — variable angle, high signal collection efficiency. With this imaging system, within milliseconds, total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy, wide-field fluorescence and transmitted illumination can be alternated and fast time-lapse experiments can be performed.

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ASSORTED ANTIBODIES



NMDA receptor 2B staining of rat cerebral cortex using Zymed's anti-NMDA receptor 2B antibody.

Zymed offers a large selection of antibodies for the study of neurobiological systems, including antibodies specific for various families of neurotransmitters and their receptors. Over 15 different kinds of purified and concentrated glutamate receptor subunit and splice variant antibodies are now available. The antibodies can be used for western blotting; some selected glutamate receptor subunit-specific antibodies can be used for ELISAs, immunoprecipitation and immunohistostaining.

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