

Technical Exchange

Seeing Conservation in a Whole New Light

DermLite®, as the name implies, is an instrument made primarily for use in dermatology. But the features of the DermLite model DL100 make it ideal for conservators working in the lab or in the field.

Battery operated, the DermLite features a 10X optically-perfect lens atop a polarizing filter to cut surface glare and render the image being viewed as though it was being seen with the naked eye. Add to that a ring of perfectly balanced LED's to illuminate the surface, and you are now looking at a painting surface, a work of art on paper, or virtually anything in a whole new way.

The nice thing about DermLite is that it's a professional product made to withstand constant daily use and comes with a five-year warranty. Add-on accessories include a well-made belt pouch and a form-fitting silicone case, so it can be added to a service belt or hand carried. The extra protection of the silicone case takes the worry out of accidentally dropping the instrument on a hard surface.

There are a few different models to choose from. Especially nice is one that syncs to an iPhone® so you can easily share images or publish them online.



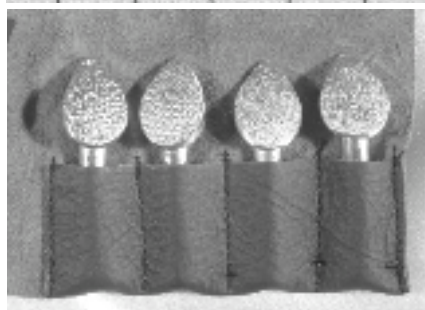
DermLite has a discount special of \$249.00 for WAAC members on the DL 100 model, a savings of \$126.00 per unit. To purchase your DermLite visit the website at dermlite.com and enter special code `spc2012`.

Ron Stark

Textured Spatula Tips



on 10 mm grid



RH Conservation Engineering recently released its long awaited texturing tip set for use with the Interchangeable Head Spatula.

This tool is used to imprint one of 4 standard canvas weave patterns into filled areas on a painting on canvas. So now rather than carving or custom casting the pattern into a fill, you can simply use one or any combination of the 4 patterned tips to impart the desired texture.

These tips work on any thermo formable fill materials. The tips are cast in solid brass and then electroless nickel/

Teflon™ plated for an effective, durable, low stick surface. The texturing can be done before or after the in-painting has been completed.

Information is available at RHConservationEng.com.

Amazing Amazon Offerings

There are many amazing items available on amazon.com. Some of the following items are sold by Amazon itself, and others are sold by other companies offered through Amazon. Of interest to conservators are the following:

The AWS BT2-201 is an amazing scale for the price. For \$15.45 plus shipping, you can be the proud owner of a pocket digital scale with a 250 gram capacity and 0.01 gram resolution. Too expensive? How about the AWS-600, 600 gram capacity, 0.1 gram resolution for \$8.59.

Both have digital readouts and the all important tare button. They can measure in grams, ounces, and a number of other arcane units. They are designed for weighing jewelry and other small items. (Their low price must be based on high a volume of sales. While the proliferation of "cash for gold" stores may account for a portion of the volume, one suspects that they may also be found useful in the illicit drug trade.)

Their disadvantages? They are decidedly not moisture-proof. They are also a tad narcoleptic, tending to fall asleep to conserve battery power and lousing up your measurement when you least expect it. But for the price and usefulness, even if you spill surfactant into the works, ruin it, and you have to buy another, you are well ahead of the game.



WAAC Publications

Handling Guide for Anthropology Collections

Straightforward text is paired with humorous illustrations in 41 pages of “do’s and don’ts” of collection handling. A Guide to Handling Anthropological Museum Collections was written by Arizona State Museum conservator Nancy Odegaard and illustrated by conservation technician Grace Katterman. This manual was designed to be used by researchers, docents, volunteers, visitors, students, staff or others who have not received formal training in the handling of museum artifacts. Paper-bound and printed on acid-free stock.

Price: \$8.85

(\$6.60 copy for orders >10 copies)

Back Issues of WAAC Newsletter

Back numbers of the *Newsletter* are available. Issues Vol.1 - Vol.14, #3 (Sept. 1992) are \$5/copy. Issues Vol.15 - Vol.29, #3 (Sept. 1997) are \$10/copy. Issues Vol.30 (Jan. 2008) and after are \$15/copy. A 20% discount will be given to libraries seeking to obtain back issues to complete a “run” and for purchases of ten copies or more of an issue.

**Prices include shipping and handling.
Make checks payable to WAAC
drawn in US dollars on a US bank.**

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A cool little toy: a **pocket microscope** with built in illuminator can be had for \$2.97 (list price \$8.84) plus shipping. While it will never replace a real microscope, this baby offers 45x magnification with pretty good quality.

It's disadvantage? The tiny switch for the white LED illuminator is on the underside, right next to the lamp. To find the switch, one turns the 'scope over, flips the switch, and finds oneself temporarily blinded. Want more, they also list a 60x model for \$4.21.



pH meters are being used in more conservation disciplines than in the past. Knowing and setting the pH of an aqueous cleaning solution is necessary for many systems, including the MCP.

pH meters' electrodes are notoriously fragile so using inexpensive pH meters is a common practice -- I go through a few meters a year.

The cheapest meter I have found is one sold for home beer brewers. The Hanna Instruments HI 98103B Beer pH Tester



costs \$31.04 and comes with a case, that is honestly pretty useless, and sachets of electrode cleaning solution. It is the same pH meter which is sold for a bit more without the box for other uses. It has two point calibration (by 10-turn potentiometers) and measures to 0.01 pH unit.

Last, but definitely not least, one can purchase the HM Digital AP-2 Water Test Meter for \$22.99. It is a **conductivity meter** that reads in $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (as opposed to

hardness or TDS – total dissolved solids) and measures from 0 to 9,999 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.



It's an immersion meter, so it doesn't replace the Horiba B-173 which can measure the conductivity of a single drop, but then it doesn't cost over \$200, either.

Ideally, one might want to measure higher conductivity solutions, too, but it is perfect for formulating rinse solutions -- 1,000 μS for traditional paints and, per Richard Wolbers' research 6,000 μS for acrylics.

Chris Stavroudis

MS2A News Flash

Despair not, those of you who consider MS2A the perfect varnish.

The operation of Linden Chemicals, including the manufacture of art conservation materials, has been taken over by a former colleague of Vince Routledge's, Andy Broome. Andy was a cofounder of Linden with Vince in 1992, but moved into other areas within the chemical and petrochemical industry. For the past year, he had been been in discussions with Vince about taking over the business and re-commencing production in the UK. Transfer of all the existing stock has now taken place, and he has re-established Linden Chemicals Limited as a UK company.

The web site is currently being updated to reflect the changes. New contact information is: Andy Broome, Managing Director, Ph 07908 791520, Fax 07092 303168, andy@innpacsol.co.uk