

Improved Sample Mounting for the TL-GM1 GentleMill™

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Introduction

Sample mounting is a critical part of any TEM application, especially when dealing with samples that are unique to a particular analysis problem. Recently a modified sample mounting jig was developed to improve the reliability of sample mounting methods. This report outlines the basics of this holder.

Procedure

1. Press down the arm of the special mounting tool against the spring and turn away from the support.
2. Loosen the two clamping screws.
3. Put the sample holder onto the top of the support of the special mounting tool.



Figure 1: Illustration showing the basic steps 1 through 3. The sample holder is inserted into the special mounting tool and tightened in place.

4. Tighten down the two clamping screws.
5. Press down the arm against the spring and turn back over the support.
6. Lower the arm until the two guide pins of the special mounting tool are aligned with the guide pin holes of the clamp plate.
7. Place the special mounting tool under a stereo microscope.
8. Rotate the support until the tabs of clamp plate are in the open position to release the clamp plate.
9. Rotate the support slightly in the opposite direction to relieve pressure from the guide pins inside the clamp plate. Press down the arm against the spring and turn away from the support.
10. Lift off the clamp plate using tweezers.

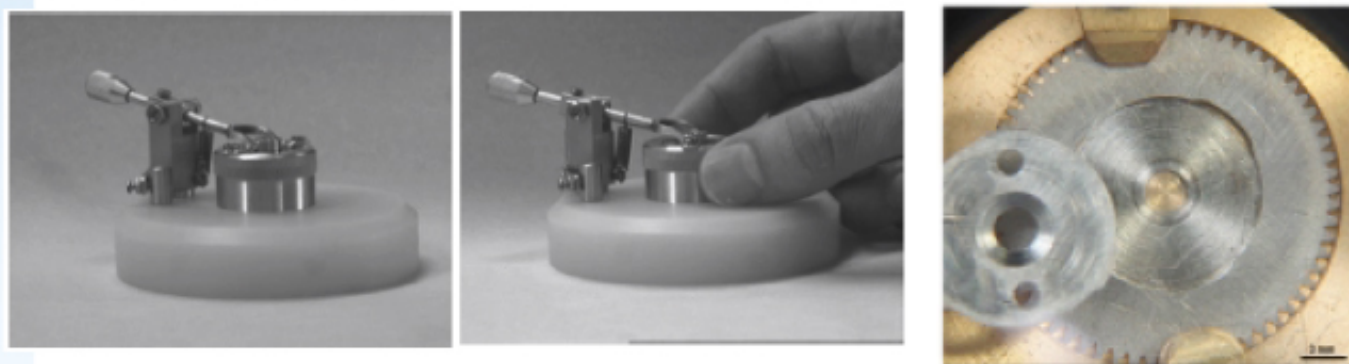


Figure 2: Illustration showing the basic steps 6-10. The sample holder when clamped into place is rotated to remove the clamping plate. The small arm of the special mounting tool is aligned so the two centering pins are inserted into the clamp plate pin holes.

