

Scientific Instruments, Part 5

What are some other science tools?

Hot plates and **Bunsen burners** are used to heat substances in the lab. A hot plate works using electricity. A Bunsen burner uses an open flame to heat substances. Use hot plates and Bunsen burners carefully to prevent burns, electric shock, or fire. Never leave either tool unattended when it is in use.

Scalpels, probes, forceps, and pins are used for dissections. A **scalpel** is used for cutting. A probe is used to move objects out of the way or to point out structures. **Forceps** are used to grasp structures. Pins are used to hold a specimen in place. Use dissecting tools carefully to avoid cuts and punctures. You should also wear disposable plastic gloves when performing any dissection.



forceps



scalpel



probe

Dissection tools

Another kind of **probe** is an electronic device that is used to make and display measurements. Many probes measure the properties of substances, such as pH, temperature, or the amount of a specific element or compound present. Many probes can make more than one kind of measurement and store the data for later use.

Computers are used to collect, organize, and analyze data, and to prepare reports. They can also be used to make tables and graphs. When connected to the Internet, computers can be used to do research. Computers can also be used to communicate with others.



This probe measures temperature.

Show What You Know

1. What tool might you use to find out how much dissolved oxygen is in water?

2. What is a scalpel used for? _____

3. How does a Bunsen burner differ from a hot plate? _____
