

Paraffin sample sectioning and mounting using slide warmer

1. Pre-chill paraffin-embedded tissue blocks on ice for at least 30 mins before sectioning.
2. Preheat a slide warmer to 40-45°C.
3. Cut sections about 5-10 μm thick using a microtome.

Note: The sections will connect together as a “ribbon”. The section surface should appear smooth and flat.

4. Cut the ribbon into ~6 inch shorter ribbons and lay them in an orderly fashion on a flat surface.
5. Use the blade to separate sections within the ribbons.
6. Put 6-8 drops of water on the top surface of a slide (e.g. Superfrost Plus Microscope Slide) to prevent the sections from sticking on the slide at this time.
7. Using tweezers, pick up sections and align them on the top surface of a slide.

Note: The water drops will also help secure the sections in position during the alignment.

8. Immediately add more water in between the sections and on the top surface of the slide. Make sure all the sections are floating freely on the water without any contact with the slide.
9. Heat the slide on the slide warmer until all the sections have expanded and flattened out.
10. Carefully remove the water between the sections and slides, so that the flattened sections can now adhere to the top surface of slides.

Note: Be careful not to lose any sections or introduce bubbles between the sections and slides during this process.

11. Adjust the slide warmer 37°C and dry the slides overnight on the slide warmer.