# **EM** Filaments and Apertures

### **Replacement Filaments for Electron Microscopes**

The filaments supplied by TAAB are made in specially designed jigs to ensure accuracy and reproducibility. High ductility tungsten wire is used to minimise strain in the wire. All filaments are stress relieved by flashing in a vacuum at temperatures above the normal operating level. They are then checked for accuracy of centring. Filament assemblies with alignment screws are set up under a light microscope to ensure they are ready for immediate operation in the EM.



#### Filament Repair Service

Most filaments can be accepted for repair provided the bases are in good condition. If the insulators need replacement these will be changed (if available) and charged in addition. Repaired filaments are given the same exacting care as new filaments. All are preflashed in vacuum to promote stability in operation and those filaments on bases provided with adjustment screws are subsequently recentred under the light microscope. The filaments sent for repair must be in a suitable transit box or tube.

F149 Refilamenting Siemens type	F150 Refilamenting JEOL type	F151 Refilamenting ISI/ABT
F206 Refilamenting Amray	F207 Refilamenting Philips	F208 Refilamenting Hitachi

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#### Lanthanum Hexaboride Filaments



Kimball Physics single crystal lanthanum hexaboride cathodes are available for most makes of electron microscopes and other electron beam instruments. These are tiny tips (15µm diameter) of lanthanum hexaboride mounted on the end of a single, stress-free carbon heater rod held in place by a carbon ferrule.

In the SEM the extra brightness provided by these filaments promotes better imaging resolution and an improved signal to noise ratio. For microanalytical applications the extra probe current density available using the LaB<sub>6</sub> emitter facilitates the use of finer probes and gives improved counting statistics. For TEM imaging LaB<sub>6</sub> is is largely used in applications where high brightness and a low energy spread are required; hence LaB<sub>6</sub> is particularly advantageous for high resolution studies. Lifetimes in excess of six months are regularly achieved in commercial SEM's and TEM's with suitable gun vacuum. LaB<sub>6</sub> is a very economical way of improving the microscope performance but for best results and longest filament life the vacuum in the vicinity of the gun should be of the order of  $10^{-7}$  Torr. Operational guide lines for for the use of LaB<sub>6</sub> cathodes are available on request.

F209 On Philips base F210 On Siemens base F211 On Cambridge/LEO base F212 On JEOL base F213 On Zeiss base

F214 On ISI/ABT base F215 On Hitachi base F216 On Amray base F217 On VG base