

Application Bulletin

AB-218

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Mineral Identification

Wavelength: Short wave (254nm) and Long wave (365nm)
Lamps Used: Mineralight® and Blak-Ray® (various models)
Field of Use: Mineral Collecting

Background

There are many facets to mineral collecting; cutting, tumbling, faceting, lapidary, and fluorescence. Both children and adults love to collect stones.

The fluorescence of minerals is the most colorful and fascinating part of the hobby. Numerous minerals not readily discernible to the human eye will glow colorfully under ultraviolet light. Some minerals are sensitive only to short wave UV, but others will fluoresce with longwave UV. Certain locations are famous for their deposits of fluorescent minerals, including Franklin, New Jersey. UVP developed the first Mineralight lamp in the 1930's. Among the many practical applications of mineral identification, the Mineralogist lamp enabled the US to locate domestic sources of tungsten when foreign supplies became unavailable during World War II. Tungsten, also called Wolfram, a chemical element, is an exceptionally strong refractory metal used in steels to increase hardness.

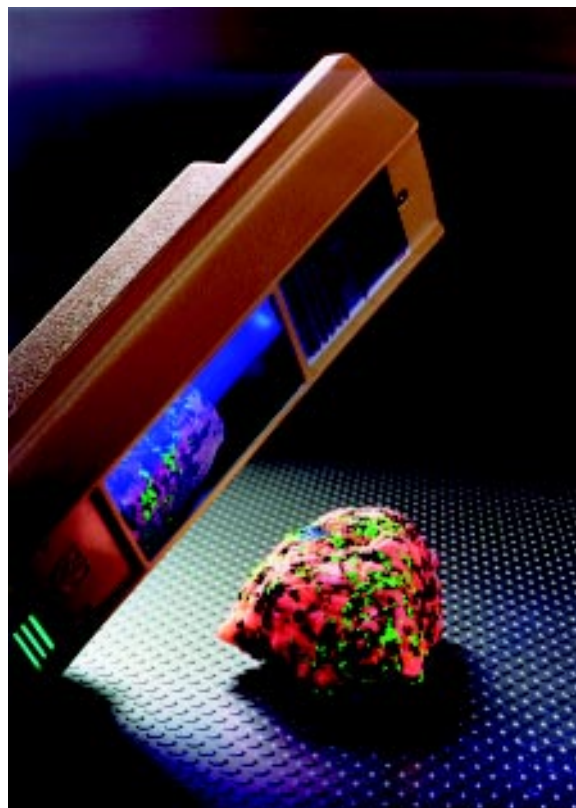
Recommended Lamps

For amateur field use, several UVP battery-operated hand lamps are available. Six watt DC models include Mineralight UVG-47 (short wave), Mineralight UVGL-49 (multiband), and Blak-Ray ML-49 (long wave) as well as rechargeable and AA battery-operated models.

Several AC Mineralight and Blak-Ray hand lamps also are recommended amateur field use, and for home display, Mineralight UVG-D15 (short wave) and Blak-Ray XX15 (long wave) are recommended.

Viewing cabinets provide a darkroom effect for viewing minerals.

Fluorescent minerals offer persons of all ages a whole new world of color and a basis for a renewed interest in nature.



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