

Tool time : Crystallographic tools for specimen extraction, selection and mounting.

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From the first stone ax to modern surgical instruments, tools have been used to aid the development of human endeavors. Tools are also a necessary component to successful crystallographic structure elucidation. Crystallographic tools can be manufactured for a particular use or adapted from pre-existing items and can range from simple sewing needles to elaborate Kapton specimen mounts. The focus of this work will be in the area of specimen extraction, selection and mounting and will highlight a few simple crystallographic tools and how these tools could impact your scientific resources.