

## Tips for Instructors

Cut the wedges of CD beforehand using a strong pair of scissors, if the CD cracks, place it in hot water before cutting.<sup>1</sup> The focusing slit may also be cut beforehand with a craft knife, however, most first year students managed well, either using an open pair of scissors or by tracing the area repeatedly with a pen until they broke through the cardboard template.

Natural sunlight varies with the time of day and weather conditions. It was found that observations of natural light were more vivid and included purples and violets if done in the early afternoon, as opposed to early morning. Students should be cautioned not to look directly at the sun, but rather to angle their Mini Specs appropriately and only observe through the device. It is helpful for the students' observations if the instructor describes violet as purple and indigo as a deep blue, between blue and violet.

Students often battle to discern between an energy saver globe and an incandescent globe. It is recommended that the instructor label each of these light sources. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) were used as they were more cost effective, however, LED globes may also be used but will produce a different discrete spectra. Light interference can be minimized in the laboratory by turning off all light sources, other than the one being observed, and drawing the curtains.

1. American Museum of Natural History. Building a Spectroscope, 2002. HYPERLINK "<https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/curriculum-collections/discovering-the-universe/building-a-spectroscope>" <https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/curriculum-collections/discovering-the-universe/building-a-spectroscope> (accessed 2019).