

Everyday objects seen under the SEM microscope



Without scanning electron microscopes, much of today's science, technology and medicine would be impossible. From tissue samples to semiconductors, we rely on scanning electron microscopes or SEMs to reveal the invisible. Yet, as these images show, SEMs can also be used to entertain. All these images show familiar household objects from unfamiliar viewpoints. Whether it's a DVD or a mascara brush, what is in reality a part of everyday life assumes a completely novel appearance under the electron beam. This is because the SEM literally 'sees' things differently from an optical microscope. Although

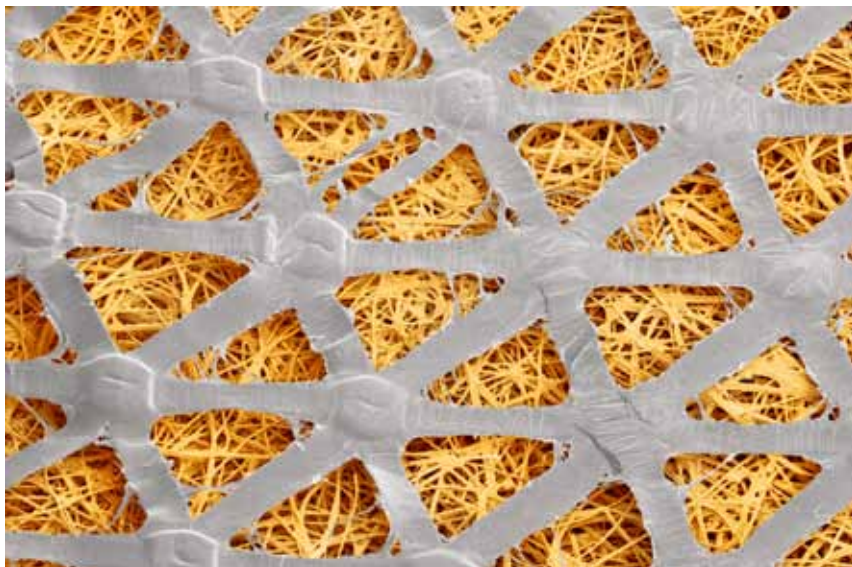
its main claim to fame is its astonishing resolution - where a light microscope magnifies up to 1000x, an electron microscope magnifies more than 10,000x - the SEM has an extra, and powerful, dimension. Compared with an optical microscope, the SEM has a much larger depth of field. This means that, even at low magnifications - comparable to those of light microscopes - objects are in perfect focus from foreground to background. This is unique to electron microscopes - and gives the stunning 3-D effect seen in these images.

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Clockwise from top: cigarette lighter, mascara brush, plaster pad, spectacle hinge.



FULL PICTURE SET

For captions and credits, please refer to the captions.txt file



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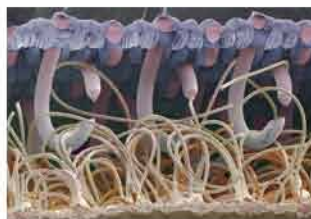
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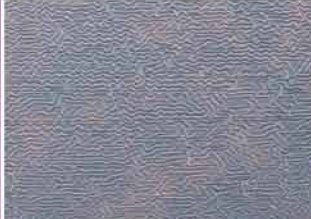
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