**Performing Köhler alignment**

1. Make sure both oculars are focusing at the same distance, white dot on 0.

2. Turn on transmitted light; the H position is selected on the condenser wheel.

3. Open iris diaphragm to the maximum.

4. Open field diaphragm to the maximum.

5. Focus your sample (high-contrast specimen).

6. Close field diaphragm. Now you see a blurred polygon.

7. Get condenser closer to the sample (the closest possible) by adjusting the height of the condenser.

8. Move away the condenser from the sample, slowly, until the polygonal diaphragm gets in focus.

9. Find the optimal focus, i.e., when you see either a red halo inside and a blue halo just outside the diaphragm, or purple color across the border.

10. Open the field diaphragm, but leaving all the sides and angles visible.

11. With help of the two centering screws, center it.

12. Open the field diaphragm until you just don’t see any side (not too much, though).

13. Use (close) the iris diaphragm to improve contrast of your image (never min, never max. Usually more toward small aperture).