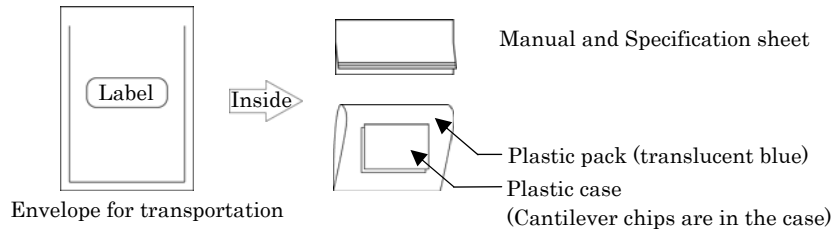


## Micro cantilever user's manual

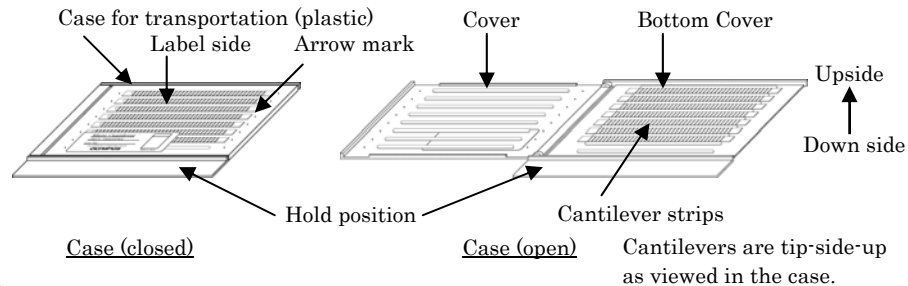
Thank you for purchasing OLYMPUS Micro cantilever.  
Please read this manual carefully before use.

< Explanation of the each part of the products >

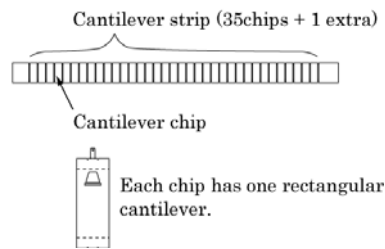
Cantilever chips in a plastic case are included in the envelope with manual and spec. sheet.



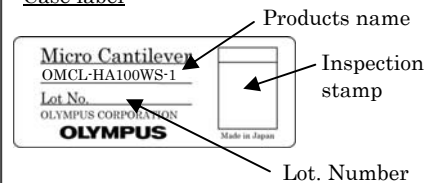
Cantilever chips are contained in the plastic case.



Cantilever strip and chips



Case label



Please obey the following to the OLYMPUS micro cantilevers

### Warning

- Use protective eye glasses when handling to avoid damage to the eyes from breakage of the cantilever chips.



### Warning

- Use protective gloves to avoid getting hurt by a shard of cantilever chip, when breaking and cutting cantilever chips from cantilever strips.

### Caution

- Please handle our cantilevers carefully because they are fragile.

### Caution

- Do not drop or shake the cantilever case. Even when the cantilever strips are contained in the cantilever case, the cantilever strips may move in the case and the cantilever may break if the case is handled roughly or jarred.

### Caution

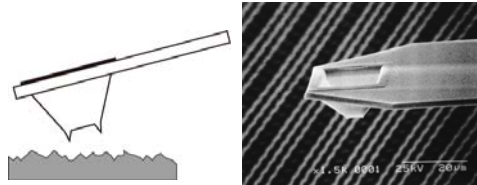
- Be sure to store the cantilevers at room temperature and moderate humidity.

### Caution

- When discarding, please obey the laws and regulations in your country and/or your company. These cantilevers are made from silicon nitride, gold/chromium and pyrex glass.

## Special feature of OLYMPUS Micro cantilever [OMCL-HA100WS- series]

- AC mode Cantilever** – This type of micro cantilever is suitable for AC mode AFM measurement in air which is also called dynamic mode measurement.  
High mechanical Q factor of the cantilever allows you high sensitivity measurement to probe the sample surface gently.
- Low wear tip material** – Silicon nitride ( $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ), known as low-wear material, is employed as a tip material to minimize the degradation of AFM data due to tip wear.  
Thick  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  tip, 200 nm, bring its material hardness into full play. The hardness and thickness reduces tip wear and increases tip life.
- Twin tip** – Oxide sharpened wedge tip  
The twin tip (see illust. and picture below) protrude from the two corners of the wedge-like tip. The protrusion on the wedge tip in the side of the cantilever free end is surely terminated at one point and will act as a substantial probe by attaching the cantilever to the AFM instrument with some tilt angle (for instance 10 degrees).  
Although the whole tip heights is 12  $\mu\text{m}$  (typ.), the effective tip height is 200 nm (typ.).  
Therefore this type of the cantilever is suitable for the study of flat thin films.
- Reflex gold coating** – Gold is coated on the back side of the cantilevers for optical detection.



See the specification sheet of OLYMPUS Micro cantilevers at the last page of this manual.

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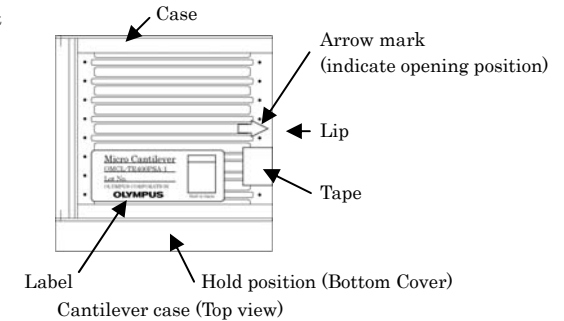
## 1 | Preparation

- Please prepare the followings before using OLYMPUS cantilevers.
- To gain a better understanding of how cantilevers and chips are connected, cantilevers should be inspected under the microscope.

- Work environment : Clean bench  
(Use of an electrical charge neutralizer of ionizer is recommended.)
- For hazard avoidance : Protective eye glasses, Thin gloves
- For cantilever treatment and disconnecting procedure  
: Microscope slide glass, Tweezers, Scalpel or razor blade, Scotch drafting tape  
(Use of anti-electrostatic discharge mat and a wrist band is recommended.)
- For cantilever storage : Dry box, Case for storage
- For inspection : Stereo microscope

## 2 | Open the case and take out the cantilever strip from the case

- It is recommended that the cantilever case be opened in a clean environment like a clean bench in order to avoid the cantilever being contaminated. Handling under an ionizer is recommended.
- Avoid wearing clothes like woolen sweaters, fleece, etc that give off the static electricity when handling the cantilever cases and chips. Use of an anti-electrostatic mat and wrist band is preferable.
- In opening the case, put the plastic case label-side up on a desk, and turn the case so the arrow mark comes to your side.
- Peel off the tape to open the case.  
Don't throw away the tape. That will be used again to fix the closed case after taking out the cantilever strip from the case.

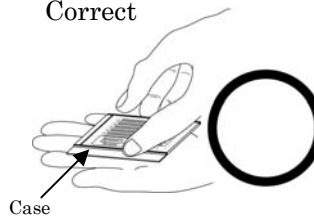


## Caution

- Be sure to grasp the bottom cover in taking the cantilever case, or the case may be opened and the cantilever strips may slip off and break.

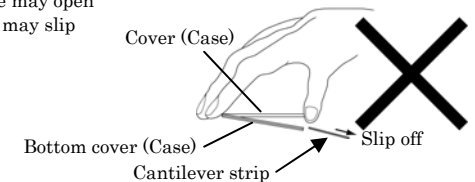
- After peeling off the tape from the case, be sure to grasp the bottom cover like in the drawing left below. Don't pick up the case by grabbing the cover

### Correct



If you pick up the cover like in the drawing (right), the case may open and the cantilever strip may slip off and break


### Incorrect



6) In the procedure 1) to 3) in the drawing below, open the cover and take out the cantilever strip with tweezers.

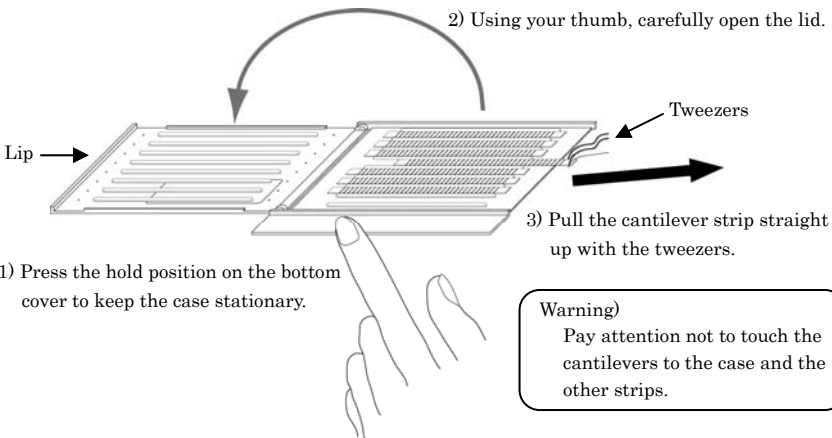
If you find the cantilever strip attached to the back side of the cover, stop opening the cover. Close the case again and pat the cover with your finger to move the cantilever strip from the cover to the bottom cover. Then try to open the case again.

 <b>Caution</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please handle our cantilevers carefully because they are fragile.</li> </ul>

 <b>Caution</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid any contact with the cantilevers when you pull up the cantilever strip from the case.</li> </ul>

 <b>Caution</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cantilever chips should always be placed tip-side-up.</li> </ul>

1) in the fig. : Press the hold position on the bottom cover to keep the stationary.  
 2) in the fig. : Using your thumb, carefully open the lid.  
 3) in the fig. : Pull the cantilever strip straight up with the tweezers.




2) Using your thumb, carefully open the lid.

3) Pull the cantilever strip straight up with the tweezers.

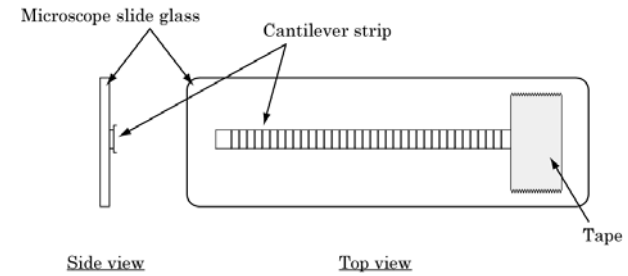
**Warning)**  
 Pay attention not to touch the cantilevers to the case and the other strips.

The way to open the case and to put out the cantilever strip from the case

3 Preparation before disconnecting the cantilever chip

 <b>Caution</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not use the plastic case for transportation as a work plate in the process for chip disconnection.</li> </ul>



- 1) Use a microscope slide glass as a work plate in the process for disconnecting the cantilever chip.
- 2) Lay the cantilever strip tip-side-up on the microscope slide glass.
- 3) Then, settle the cantilever strip on the microscope slide glass with a piece of Scotch drafting tape (below).



Cantilever strip placed on the microscope slide glass

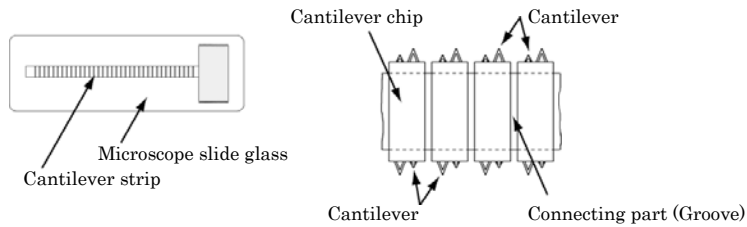
4 Disconnecting the cantilever chip

- 1) Disconnect the cantilever chip as follows.

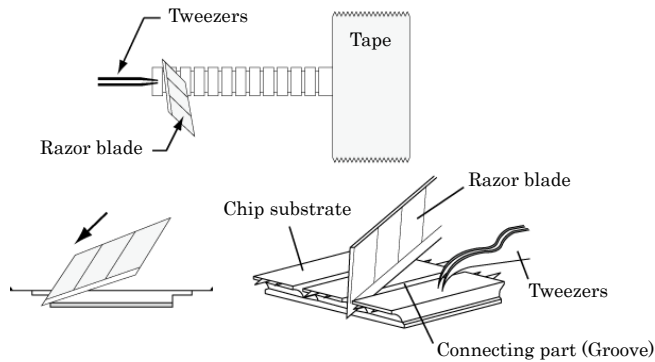
 <b>Warning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use protective eyewear when handling to avoid damage to the eyes from breakage of the cantilever chips.</li> </ul>	

 <b>Warning</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use protective gloves to avoid getting hurt by a shard of cantilever chip, when breaking and cutting cantilever chips from cantilever strips.</li> </ul>

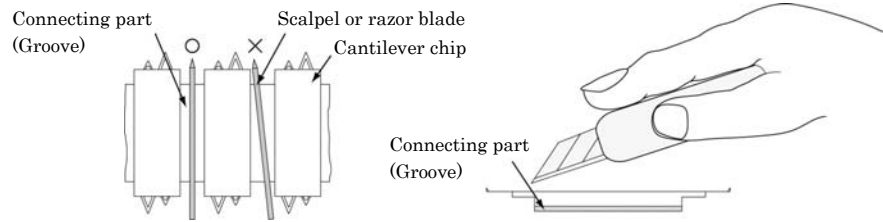
- 2) Turn the microscope slide glass sideways for disconnecting a chip (see below).  
Then, cantilevers on a chip end face to you (see right below).



- 3) Hold the center of the cantilever chip with the tweezers to cut a chip at the end of the cantilever strip. Place a scalpel (or razor blade) at the connecting part between the cantilever chips, and scribe a chip off gently.



Put the scalpel to the edge of connecting part, push the scalpel and give pressure to the edge with it like in the drawing above. The side face of the scalpel should be kept parallel to the side wall of the groove for making this procedure easy.

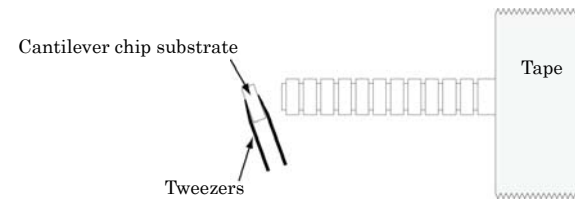


Putting the scalpel parallel to connecting part is recommended.

It may be better to press your forefinger on the scalpel (above) to apply vertical pressure to the connection.

## 5 Attaching the cantilever chip to your instrument

- 1) After reading the instruction manual of your instrument again, grasp the side of the cantilever chip with the tweezers and attach the cantilever chip to your scanning probe microscope.



## 6 Returning the cantilever strips into the plastic case

### ! Caution

- Lay the cantilever strip correctly in the grooves of the bottom cover when you return the cantilever strips into the plastic case for transportation again.

### ! Caution

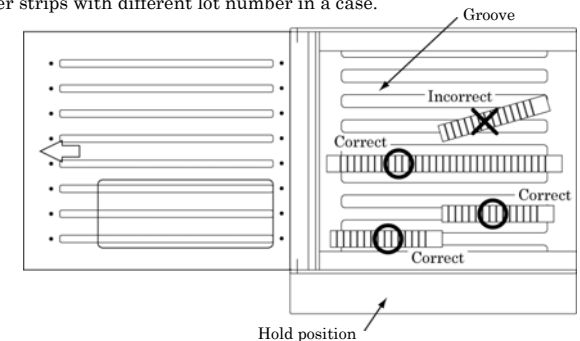
- Do not drop or shake the cantilever case. Even when the cantilever strips are contained in the cantilever case, the cantilever strips may move in the case and the cantilever may break if the case is handled roughly or jarred.

- 1) Once you take out a cantilever strip from the case for transportation, storing the cantilever strip in a separate case is recommended. The way will be explained in the next head (8) in this manual. Although it is possible to store the cantilever strip in the case for transportation, please pay attention to the following.

\* Please avoid storing plural cantilever strips with different lot number in a case.

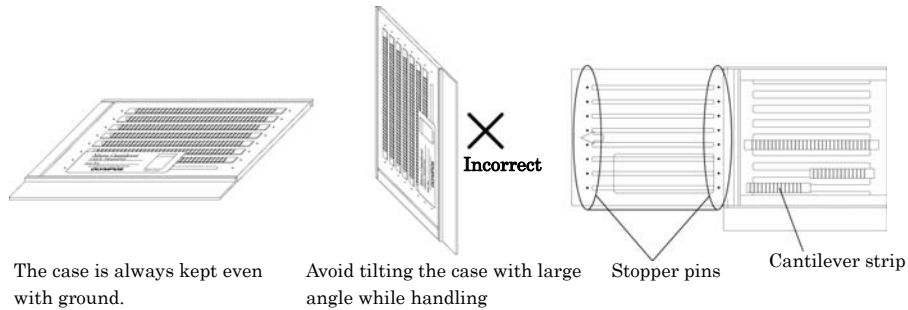
\* Please pay attention to the position and the direction of the grooves where cantilever strips should be placed on. Be carefully to lay the cantilever strips parallel to/in the grooves of the bottom cover. (see right)

\* If you place the cantilever on the bottom case incorrectly, cantilevers and cantilever strips may break when you close the case.




Laying cantilever in a groove of the bottom cover

- 2) After you set the cantilever strips correctly in the grooves, close the cover and put a piece of the Scotch drafting tape at the lip of the case to fix it.
- 3) Once open the cantilever case, level the case with the ground even the case closed (illust. left). Avoid tilting the case with large angle while handling, or cantilevers may break by scraping with the stopper pins on the cover if the cantilever strips slide in the case.



- The case is always kept even with ground. Avoid tilting the case with large angle while handling
- 4) Store the cantilevers in a desiccator box for avoiding dust, high temperature and humid even the case is closed.

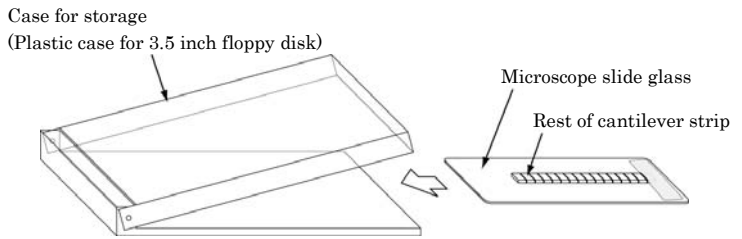
**7 Storing the cantilever strips in the case for storage**



## Caution

- Be sure to store the cantilevers at room temperature and moderate humidity.

- 1) Prepare a case for storing the remaining cantilever strip. (Plastic case for 3.5 inch floppy disk etc.)
- 2) Keep the cantilever strip in the case for storage as it is taped to the microscope slide glass.



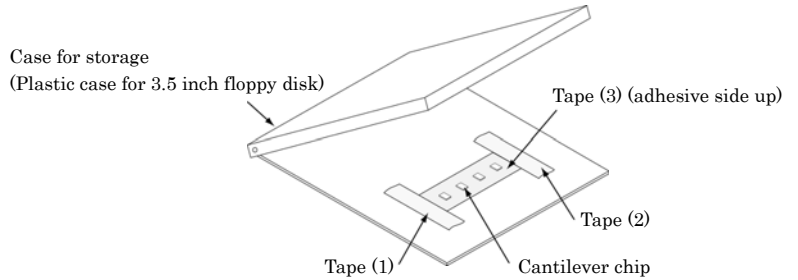
The way to store the rest cantilever strip in the case

- 3) Attach the microscope slide glass on the case with a Scotch drafting tape.
- 4) Be sure to give a memo of the product name and lot number on the case for storage.

**8 Storing the disconnected cantilever chips in the case for storage**

- 1) Store the cantilever chips in another case for storage. If you have a GEL-PAK container, those chips are easily stored in it.
- 2) If you don't have a GEL-PAK container, there is a way to arrange a substitute case for chips storage by yourself. Please refer to the way in the drawing below.

- \* Like in the drawing below, settle the tape (3) adhesive-side-up on the case with the tape (1) and (2).
- \* Using a tape in weak adhesiveness as the tape (3) will give you a good result. For instance, Scotch drafting tape or the adhesive area from a Post-it note is recommended because the adhesiveness of the tape is appropriate. The use of both side adhesive tapes that is usual in the office, is not recommendable because most of them is too sticky.



The way to store the cantilever chips in the case

- 3) Be sure to give a memo of the product name and lot number on the case for storage.

**9 Information**

Please contact following if you have any question on this user's manual.

OLYMPUS CORPORATION  
 Microtechnology R&D Division  
 2-3 Kuboyama-cho Hachioji-shi Tokyo 192-8512 Japan  
 email : probe@olympus.co.jp

Please access to the web page of OLYMPUS micro cantilevers.

<http://www.olympus.co.jp/probe>