

# Flaming a Loop

## BIOL 2420 –Microbiology for the Health Sciences

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Start with a properly-lit Bunsen burner (conical blue flame):



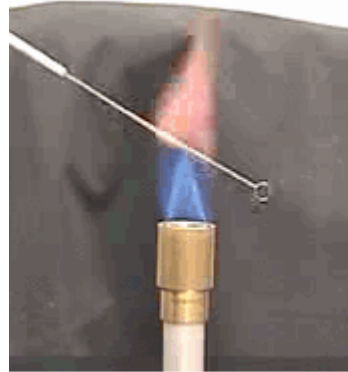
Beginning where the wire and the handle meet, place the wire at the very top of the conical blue flame, as this is where the heat is greatest:



Hold until the wire glows orange:



Slowly move the wire through the flame from handle to tip, allowing each section to glow orange before moving on:



Once the tip glows orange, remove the loop from the flame. Letting it sit in the flame for longer will break down the metal.



After your loop has been flamed, don't blow on it, lay it on the countertop, or touch it to anything other than sterile media or your desired culture unless you're done using it; otherwise you have to flame it again.

You can watch a video of the proper way to flame a loop on the Microbugz site in the Fundamental Skills section:  
[http://www.austincc.edu/microbugz/flaming\\_loop.php](http://www.austincc.edu/microbugz/flaming_loop.php)