

Using a Laboratory Burner

Every burner has three main parts: a barrel, a gas inlet, and an adjustable air vent to introduce air into the gas stream. Some burners will also have a gas flow control valve.

To light the burner, hold a lighted match to one side of the barrel of the burner and about 3 cm above it. Turn on the gas full at its source (end of hose), and the burner should light. An alternate method using a burner striker is to turn on the gas full at its source (end of hose), place the striker in the same position as described for using a match, and rub the flint against the metal, producing a spark that will ignite the gas. Once lit, control the flow of the gas by adjusting its flow either at the source or through the gas flow control valve.

Adjust the air to produce a quiet, steady, hot blue flame with an apparent inner cone. If a yellow, smoky flame occurs, increase the air opening. If the flame rises off the barrel, reduce the gas flow. If the flame burns inside the barrel, turn the gas off for a moment, allow the burner to cool, reduce the air intake, and light again.

Caution: *Never leave a lighted burner unattended. Never touch a hot burner.*

