

# HINTS & TIPS

## THE BUNSEN BURNER

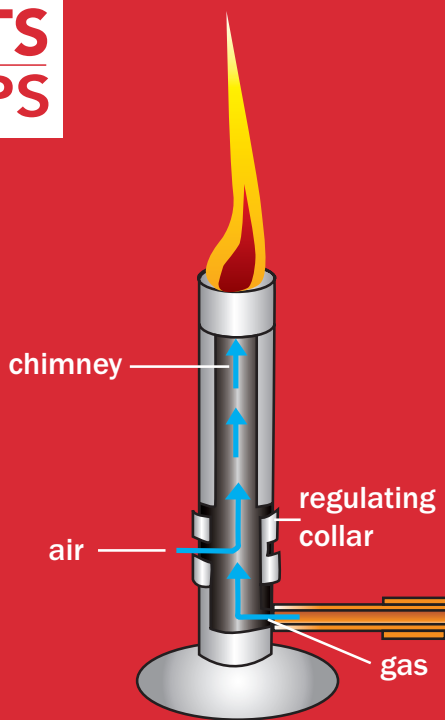
Invented by Robert von Bunsen in 1855, the Bunsen burner is one of the most common pieces of equipment in the chemistry laboratory.

A fine jet of gas enters the burner at the base and is mixed with air from the regulating collar and burns at the top of the chimney.

Varying the mixture of air and gas controls the heat of the flame.

The regulating collar controls the amount of air entering the burner by uncovering holes as it is rotated.

With the regulating collar closing the air holes, the flame is yellow and is relatively cool. With the regulating collar exposing the air holes, the blue flame roars and is at its hottest. The hottest point is just above the inner cone of the flame.



### Safety

- Before use check that there are no splits or holes in the rubber gas supply tubing
- Move combustable items like books and paper to a safe distance from the burner
- Wear eye protection to safeguard against splashes of hot chemicals, sparks and vapours
- Tie back long hair and secure loose clothing and neckties
- Make sure that the objects that you are about to heat are secure and will not topple or roll
- Close the regulating collar before lighting, this avoids you and others being surprised by a sudden roaring hot flame – the yellow flame is also easier to light
- After use, turn off the gas supply and allow the burner to cool before handling

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