Sensitive Filament

One of the most difficult parts of the experiment was breaking the light bulb without damaging the filament. There is a vacuum inside the bulb, so every time the glass breaks, it implodes, destroying the filament. We found that following the instructions in the packet was the best way to complete the task. Wrap it with tape, but instead of using a file to saw off the glass, we just broke it off with a pair of pliers. Hold it by the base with the glass part toward the ground (so it falls away from the rest of the bulb clean) and squeeze with the pliers as close to the metal base as you can. One filament lasted us the entire time (they are not as fragile as you might think) but it is always good to have a few spares lying around. To conserve battery, we recommend that you unscrew the light bulb until a spectator approaches, then quickly screw it back in. It is so much easier than removing the battery each time. We recommend going to Emigh Hardware to buy everything. Not only are they cheaper than Radio Shack, but also they are always so helpful! It is always good to have a few spares of everything lying around; be prepared to rebuild your experiment on the spot just in case something falls apart.

Good Luck,

Brian and Joe