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Question:

What are some easy samples to image with the STM?

Graphite or more specifically Highly oriented pyrolytic Graphite (HOPG) is often used as a sample or substrate in air. Because the top few layers can be cleaved off with a piece of adhesive tape leaving a clean, atomically flat surface to work on. I can only recall two papers imaging natural graphite. I have tried it once without success. A geologic sample often used Galena also known as lead sulfide. Is relatively easy to cleave off crystals it has relatively interesting features at almost all size scales, including atomic resolution.

For Graphite samples you should check out [SPI Supplies](#) they have an inexpensive "student" grade that works very well, for Galena try the [Rockman McLean Trading Company](#).

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