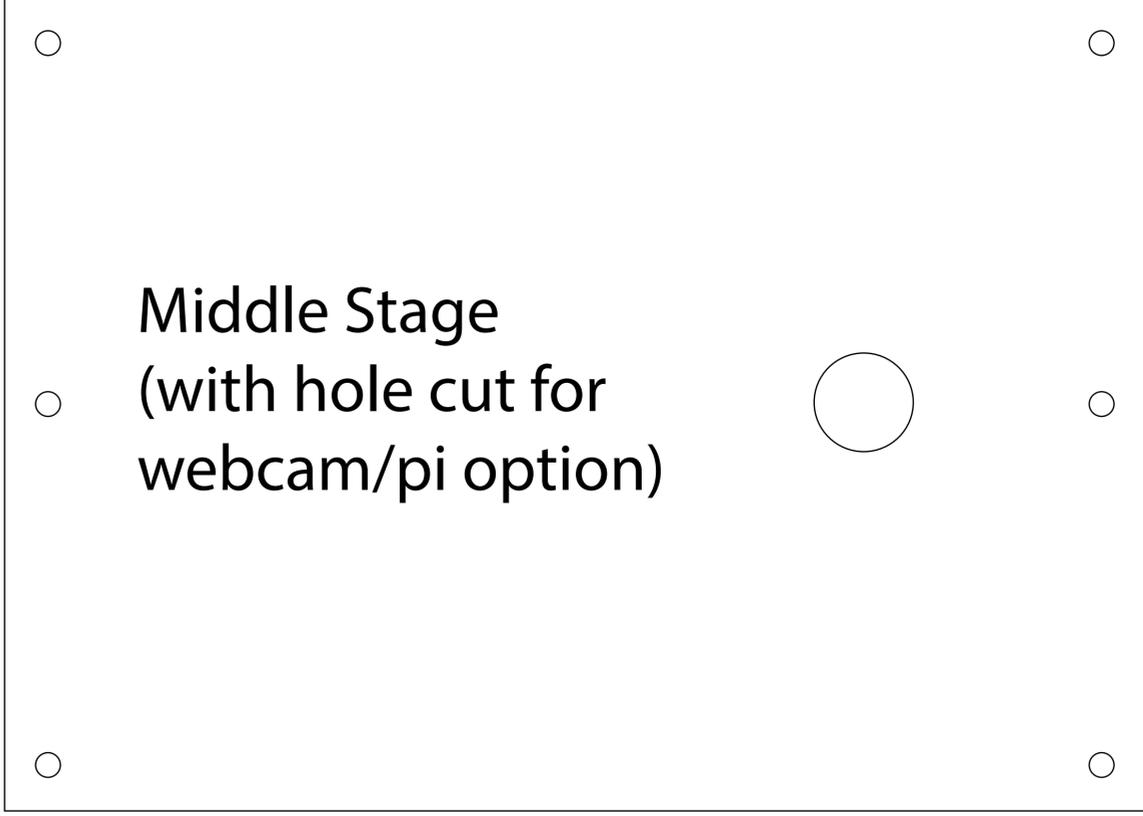
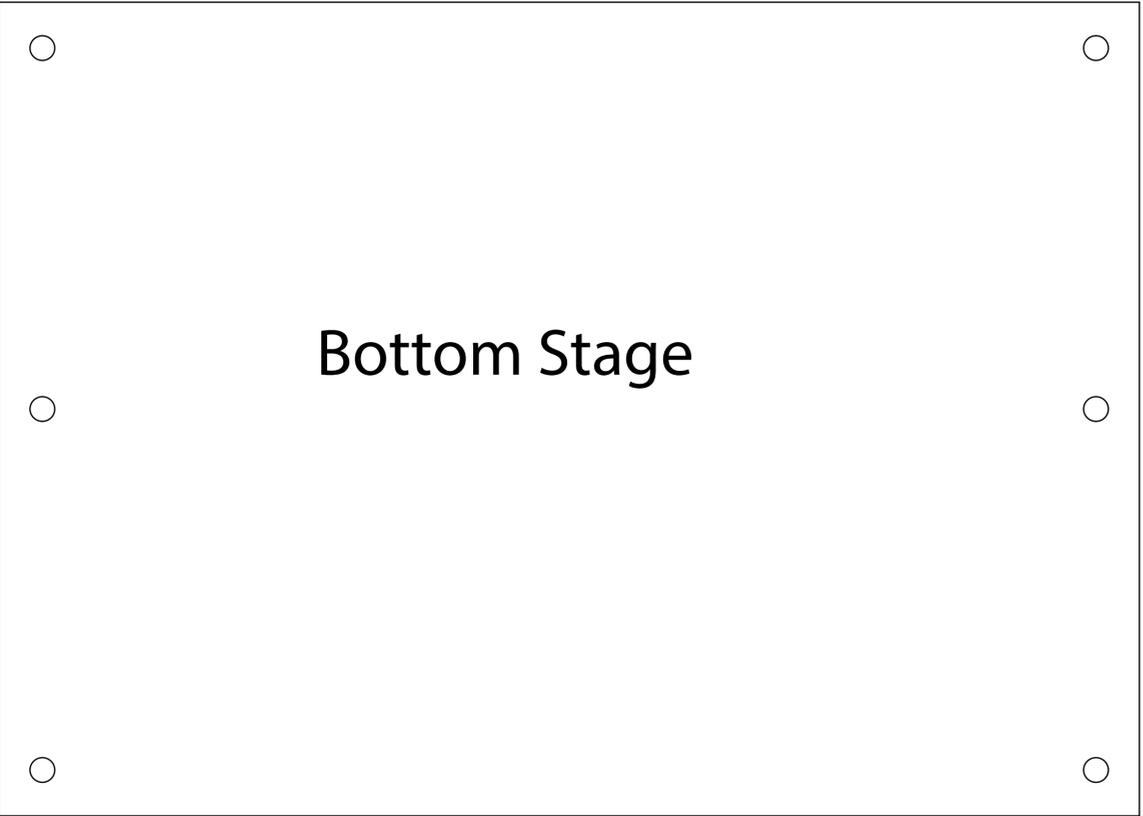
A rectangular diagram representing the top stage. It features a grid of 10 small circles at the corners and midpoints of the sides. A larger circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant. The text "Top Stage" is centered in the middle.

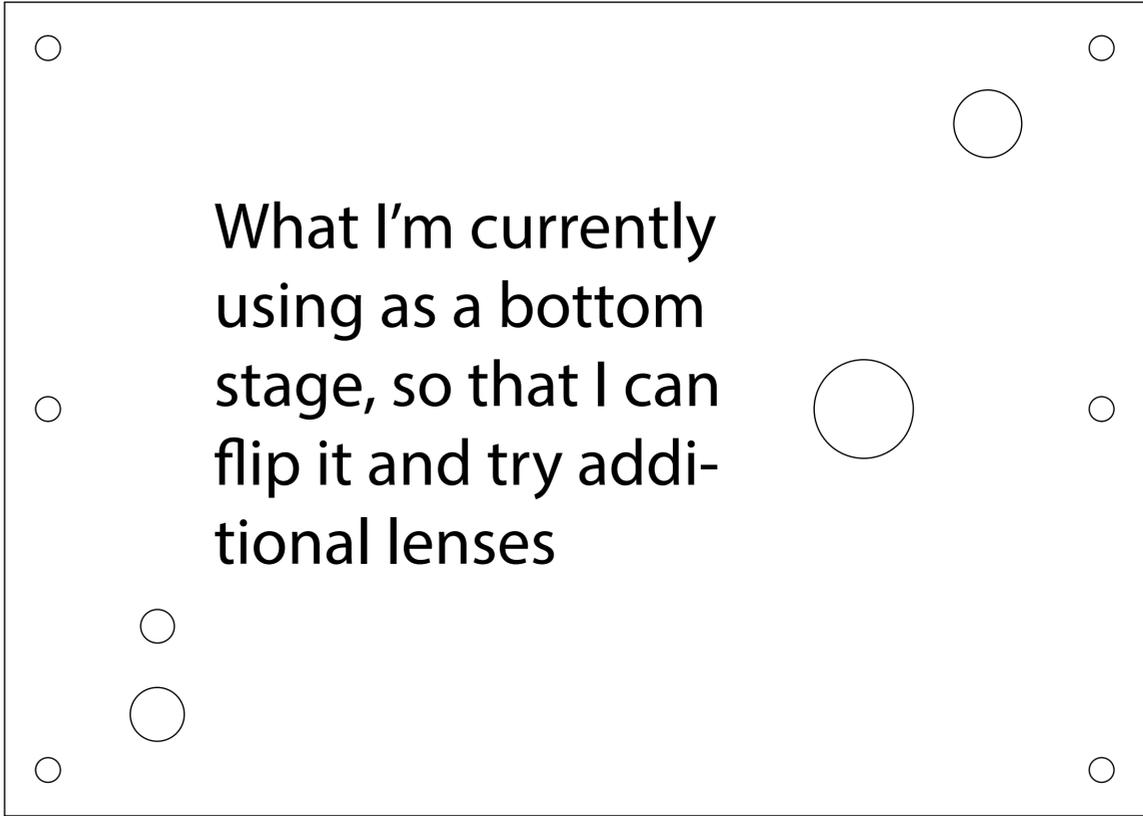
Top Stage

A rectangular diagram representing the middle stage. It features a grid of 10 small circles at the corners and midpoints of the sides. A larger circle is positioned in the middle right area. The text "Middle Stage (with hole cut for webcam/pi option)" is centered in the middle.

Middle Stage (with hole cut for webcam/pi option)

A rectangular diagram representing the bottom stage. It features a grid of 10 small circles at the corners and midpoints of the sides. A larger circle is positioned in the lower left quadrant. The text "Bottom Stage" is centered in the middle.

Bottom Stage

A rectangular diagram representing the current bottom stage. It features a grid of 10 small circles at the corners and midpoints of the sides. Two larger circles are positioned in the middle right and lower left areas. The text "What I'm currently using as a bottom stage, so that I can flip it and try additional lenses" is centered in the middle.

What I'm currently using as a bottom stage, so that I can flip it and try addi- tional lenses

Notes:

The platform size and lens positions are set for use with my ipad-- a version of this that would work for a lot of different tablets will have to be laid out differently.

The holes I cut for the lenses are not quite the right sizes-- the biggest one is a little too roomy and the smaller ones are a little too snug. I set them at .25 exactly, relying on the kerf from the laser cut to give it a little extra toom. I used the same 1/4" bolts as we used in the Community Microscope, but want to try sizing up for added stability, keeping the bottom holes fairly tight (to avoid wiggle) and the middle/top a little loose (to avoid binding while focusing).

I used 1/4" clear acrylic-- I think this is probably the thinnest you'd want to keep things nice and square. If you're using something that isn't clear (like wood, etc), you'd need to have openings under the lens holes for the light.

Because the middle stage is a little hard to access with your hands, I also used a clear acrylic rectangle as a slide holder-- long enough that I could use it easily without having to get my fingers between the stages. This also helps raise the slide over the top of the wingnut, which makes things a little tight to focus otherwise.