

Dental Instruments on Your Tray

A Townie from Canada wants to know what instruments other hygienists put in their tray set-ups. Everyone has their favorite instrument. There have been 47 posts in this discussion so far, and 319 people have viewed it online.

On our trays we have the following set-up: mirror, explorer, perio probe, five Hu-Friedy instruments – universal scaler, 17/18, 13/14, 1/2, my favorite – Everedge SCNE V129, water syringe and college pliers with two 2x2 gauzes. What do you have on your tray set-ups? Favorite instrument not including ultrasonics? Thanks for your input! ■

Jeanjean

Posted: 5/28/2006

Post: 1 of 47

Total Posts: 15

We have metal cassettes. Each of my hygiene cassettes has a mirror, explorer, air/water syringe, probe, cotton pliers, sickle scaler, Barnhart 5/6, Hu-Friedy 11/12 and 13/14. I add the gauze and prophylaxis paste after opening my cassette. My favorite is my Barnhart 5/6 or Hu-Friedy 13/14. ■



Suzanna-Suzanna

Posted: 5/28/2006

Post: 2 of 47

Total Posts: 689

My setup is pretty much the same, except I have to have my Montana Jack and H5L5 mini from PDT [Paradise Dental Technologies]. I absolutely love these instruments. ■ [Leeann](#)

alicethedog

Posted: 5/28/2006 | Post: 4 of 47

Total Posts: 318

We ordered PDT instruments at our local convention this year, so most of my instruments are PDTs with a few Hu-Friedys mixed in. On my set-up I have a mirror, explorer, probe, sickle SH6/7, Neb 128, Gracey 15/16 (love this instrument), Gracey 13/14, and we ordered a couple of Montana Jacks to try them out and they are awesome! ■

iflossem2

Posted: 6/2/2006

Post: 10 of 47

Total Posts: 19

I have mirror, explorer, probe, anterior explorer, posterior explorer (which I cannot live without), 204S or SD, Columbia 13/14 and anterior sickle. My favorite instruments are Nordent. ■

michelek

Posted: 6/9/2006 | Post: 12 of 47

Total Posts: 19

I love my Montana Jack. I also have PDT Graceys 15/16, 6/7, 3/4 and 13/14. These stay sharp and only need an occasional swipe of a ceramic stone. Most of my career I've had to order and pay for most of my instruments. Most doctors believe your setups last forever. Paying for my own is cheaper than being injured or injuring a patient. ■

83154

Posted: 6/10/2006

Post: 13 of 47

Total Posts: 3

First of all, I'm new to Hygienetown and love it! I have been reading non-stop all weekend. My new favorites are Brasseler diamond files. A trick some one passed on to me is to use the small headrest covers to hold gauze, floss, prophylaxis paste, prophylaxis angle, saliva ejector and patient napkin. It is so slick to grab a bag and a cassette and be ready for the next patient! ■

Carmine

Posted: 6/11/2006

Post: 16 of 47

Total Posts: 6

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dotleyrdh

Posted: 6/11/2006
 Post: 19 of 47
 Total Posts: 28



For perio therapy I like my regular and diamond files by Hu-Friedy. And I couldn't survive without my Nabors probe (for furcations) and my mini Graceys and/or curvettes (they are like the Graceys yet the toe is more curved and they have markings at the 5mm and 10mm mark). ■

Diane Brucato-Thomas

Posted: 7/16/2006
 Post: 23 of 47
 Total Posts: 750



I use periodontal endoscopy and I love the Brasseler diamond files and even diamond-tipped Sateltec, but I refuse to use them if I cannot "see" my instrumentation and see when I am "done." They are very aggressive and will remove tooth surface ruthlessly once the calculus is gone and it takes just a touch to remove the calculus with one. I encourage you to be aware of how much damage can be done, no matter how skilled you are, if you cannot see the tooth surface when using diamond tipped instruments. ■ [Diane](#)

Curettedesigner

Posted: 8/3/2006
 Post: 24 of 47
 Total Posts: 258



You know Diane that is the feedback I have been getting about diamond files as well. Some practitioners have a bit of an issue knowing when the deposit is gone, and how to avoid the potential of damaging the tooth surface, troughing cementum, etc. Here's a question, if you use a fine abrasive and you do not remove the deposit expeditiously, is there a chance of burnishing the deposit? ■ [Fred](#)

rileyjo

Posted: 8/3/2006
 Post: 26 of 47
 Total Posts: 35

I graduated from IU so we had SIU204 in every set-up and it is my favorite! But last year I purchased a Montana Jack from PDT with the advice from fellow Townies. It has now become my number-one instrument. I don't know how I have lived without it all these years. It seems thinner than the SIU204 and does not need sharpening nearly as much. I hope you give it a try! ■

Rachmarie

Posted: 5/30/2008
 Post: 27 of 47
 Total Posts: 5

Like everyone else, my favorite is the Montana Jack! I loaned it to a girlfriend who just took her boards. She loved it and claimed it sealed the deal for passing! Only problem is, I got the instrument at the convention, fell in love with it and then found out our office only orders Hu-Friedy. It kills me to have to buy my own instruments. ■

signekay

Posted: 5/30/2008
 Post: 31 of 47
 Total Posts: 9

Wow! I have way more instruments in my packs than most of you do. I feel lucky that my doctor lets us choose whatever we want to use and order as needed. I have furcation explorers, furcation probes, universal curettes, diamond files, Montana Jack scalers, perio files and implant scalers all bagged separately to use as needed. ■

MBrowningRDH

Posted: 5/31/2008
 Post: 34 of 47
 Total Posts: 2



Without a doubt, my favorite is the S204S posterior sickle scaler. I can go anywhere with that one instrument. ■

For most patients I use exactly two instruments (besides mirror/explorer, probe), the Montana Jack and Hu-Friedy Younger-Good. You can buy the PDT instruments like the Montana Jack and tons of other nifty tools directly from Practicon Dental online: www.practicon.com. ■



skr RDH

Posted: 6/1/2008

Post: 36 of 47

Total Posts: 211

I tried the Montana Jack scaler and have been using a Hu-Friedy CVW 186. You guys need to try this scaler. It is thinner than the Montana Jack and really reaches under the col and fits into really tight places like the mesial of #5 and #12 and the anteriors. The instrument is actually a carver and that is where you will find it in the Hu-Friedy catalog. It is my favorite. ■



suzanneburton

Posted: 6/1/2008

Post: 37 of 47

Total Posts: 3

I love the 186 also! I like the Montana Jack a little better because I don't get so nervous the tip will snap off on a chunk of calculus! ■

Rachmarie

Posted: 6/2/2008 | Post: 40 of 47

Total Posts: 5

I keep my go-to instruments in autoclave bags – Nevi anterior, Nevi posterior, Orban and Hirshfeld files, Langer 3/4. I love my Langer 3/4, couldn't SRP without it. For prophys my Barnhart is a must as I can use it on anterior and posterior. ■

callierdh

Posted: 6/8/2008 | Post: 42 of 47

Total Posts: 2

My favorite instrument is the Barnhart 5/6. It is a great universal curette. I also love my diamond files, especially for amalgam overhangs. I use high-volume evacuation and saliva ejector, cotton rolls for cheek and lip retraction, an ample amount of 2x2s, ring holder for prophylaxis paste and floss. ■

timrdh

Posted: 6/12/2008

Post: 45 of 47

Total Posts: 1

Very early in my career another hygienist told me about the cleoid-discoid amalgam carver. I've been practicing for more than 40 years and it's in all my set-ups. Had a patient today with crowding lower anterior. The carver is perfect for linguals of lower anterior. ■



Sunbird

Posted: 6/12/2008

Post: 46 of 47

Total Posts: 6

Hi Sunbird, I can hardly believe it – I too used the cleoid-discoid for the lower anteriors many, many years ago! Just wait until you try the O'Hehir 1-2 ER instrument from PDT. This newer instrument has so much more to offer than the old amalgam carver. You have got to try it and see what I mean. It's similar to the cleoid-discoid, but so much sharper and effective for lower anteriors and many other surfaces the cleoid-discoid can't reach. ■

rdh1982

Posted: 6/12/2008

Post: 47 of 47

Total Posts: 588

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Find it online at

www.hygienetown.com