Power to the hygienist

The power of saving is in your fingertips.

“I wanted to let you know how much I love the new XP American Eagle Instruments. I have been practicing dental hygiene for twenty-five years and XP Technology is the best I have ever used. Now, I never have to worry because my instruments are always sharp!”

- Pam H., RDH

Learn how to start saving money today!

Example math based on RDH website

1) Average revenue of 1 hour prophylaxis appointment: $209
2) Hygienist average hourly rate: $41.80
3) Average number of weeks worked in the year: 48
4) Number of hours spent sharpening per/week: 1
5) Number of hours spent sharpening per/year: 48

Lost Revenue to the Practice: A) $209 x 48 = $10,032
Paid Wages for Sharpening Time: B) $41.80 x 48 = $2,006.40

Your Math

1) Average revenue of 1 hour prophylaxis appointment: ____________
2) Hygienist average hourly rate: ____________
3) Average number of weeks worked in the year: ____________
4) Number of hours spent sharpening per/week: ____________
5) Number of hours spent sharpening per/year: ____________

Lost Revenue to the Practice: A) $ ____________ x ____________ = $ ____________
Paid Wages for Sharpening: B) ____________ x ____________ = $ ____________
## Ultrasonic Cleaning Bath

### Compatible Solutions List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Test Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Enzymatic Cleaner</td>
<td>Air Techniques</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OptiSonic™ Super-Concentrated General Purpose Ultrasonic Cleaning Solution</td>
<td>Benco</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benco Enzyme Tablets</td>
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<td>Benco General Purpose Ultrasonic Cleaning Solution</td>
<td>Benco</td>
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<tr>
<td>BiozymeLT Enzyme Detergent</td>
<td>Biotrol</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Helvémed</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Henry Schein</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Hu-Friedly</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enzymax® Powder</td>
<td>Hu-Friedly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enzymax Earth® Tablets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brite Shield</td>
<td>Pemier</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
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<tr>
<td>ReSURGE™ Instrument Cleaning Solution</td>
<td>Sultan Healthcare</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
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<td>Clean &amp; Simple Tablets</td>
<td>Tuutnauer</td>
<td>Compatible</td>
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<td>Harry J. Bosworth Co.</td>
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<td>Pascal International, Inc.</td>
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<td>Certol International LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbex Microzyme</td>
<td>Germiphene Corp.</td>
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**American Eagle Instruments, Inc.**

**XP® Technology**

The Sharpen-Free Instruments™
The Sharpest Factory Edge, Ever.
The unique characteristics of XP Technology produce a razor sharp edge, that starts sharp and stays sharper, longer than any other stainless or carbon steel instrument available on the market.

Thinner Blade Design.
Since XP instrument blades last so long, without the need to resharpen, we have designed them to be the thinnest blades in the industry. This allows for easier access of periodontal pockets and interproximal areas for enhanced patient comfort.

More Comfort, Less Fatigue.
An instrument that is always super-sharp gives you superior tactile sensitivity, requiring a much lighter grasp. Only a slight amount of pressure is needed to lightly “plane” away calculus and tartar.

Saves You Time & Money.
When used properly, an XP instrument will outlast any standard instrument, which saves you money. By eliminating the need for sharpening, your time can be used more productively.

Lasts Months Without Sharpening.
XP instruments are designed to last months without the need to resharpen.

You Be the Judge.
We know what you’re thinking. It sounds too good to be true, an instrument that keeps a super-sharp factory edge for months, allows easier and faster procedures, is thinner, more economical and is more comfortable. Those are pretty big claims! And we agree, they are really big claims. But, there has never been an instrument like our XP. We’ll back these claims with our unconditional guarantee.

We invite you to be the judge. Risk Free! Try our XP instruments. If you are not completely satisfied, we will refund your money or replace the instrument, no questions asked. It’s your choice.

Put down your sharpening stone, pick up the phone and call American Eagle Instruments today at 800-551-5172 to place your order, or call your favorite dental dealer representative and ask them to show you what XP Technology is all about. If you would like more information, you may also visit our website at www.am-eagle.com/xp
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What makes XP instruments different from standard stainless or carbon instruments?
The XP instruments undergo a patented process that hardens the stainless steel, and then encapsulates the steel with a diamond-like layer. This makes an edge that will last months without sharpening. The stroke test shows that XP Technology handles 10 times the strokes with only 1/10th the wear.

2. Why are XP instruments thinner than standard curettes?
There is no need to make the blade thicker to compensate for removal of material due to sharpening. Many dentists and hygienists have asked for thinner instruments for better subgingival care. The new XP Technology already ensures a super-sharp edge with a longer life.

3. How do we clean, sterilize and care for XP Technology?
Please see the XP Care Recommendations for complete use and care instructions. Avoid using solutions that contain Chloride, Chlorine, Sodium and Fluoride.

4. Do we need to take special care while using the XP instruments to get the maximum life?
Yes, XP Technology has eliminated the need to apply excess pressure. You will be able to use less force and a lighter grip. You should also avoid using them to trim margins and remove overhangs. Please review and follow the Care Recommendations.

5. XP instruments seem sharper. Why?
They are sharper! The XP instruments have a very fine and sharp, smooth edge that is designed to more efficiently root plane. This is why you must take care not to abuse the edge on margins, overhangs, or by burnishing difficult calculus. Let the XP do the work for you.

6. Do I need to change the way I scale and root plane?
You will want to slightly alter your scaling technique and take nice and easy “exploratory scaling” strokes. Since the edge is much sharper and harder than traditional instruments, the blade will do all the work and slice through calculus for you.

7. Will I really have better tactile sense with an XP instrument?
Yes! Since the blade is so sharp, you will find you can hold the instrument with a lighter grasp while you scale and root plane.

8. Can I sharpen XP instruments?
Due to a thinner blade design, we do not recommend that you sharpen your XP instrument. When they become dull, we recommend purchasing a new one.

9. How will I save money by using XP instruments?
The time and effort you currently spend sharpening can be used to treat more patients, or do other professional work.

10. Can the XP instruments help prolong my career by minimizing the chances of me getting Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?
The industry has started to recognize that a larger-diameter, lighter-weight handle has many advantages. XP instruments from American Eagle allow for a larger handle, lighter grip and less pressure during procedures. These combined benefits can help reduce the risk of repetitive movement injuries.

11. Does American Eagle Instruments guarantee I will be satisfied with the XP instruments?
Absolutely. The XP instruments have a 100% customer satisfaction guarantee. If for any reason you do not feel they are the best instruments you have ever used, we will replace or refund the instruments.

XP™ Technology - Instrument Care Recommendations

Technique
- Do practice care as these instruments have a sharper edge on a thinner blade
- Do lightly scale-away calculus with 4-6 strokes
- Avoid use on margins, overhangs, amalgam or composite
- Avoid fracturing away calculus

Care
- Do use cassettes for cleaning and storage
- Do periodically test for sharpness with an AEI test stick (American Eagle product code: AESASTS)

Cleaning
- Do promptly place instruments in ultrasonic cleaner
  *Standard recommended cleaning cycle is 20 minutes*
- Do use Ph-balanced cleaners
- Do always rinse with demineralized water after ultrasonic cleaning
- Avoid use of Chlorine, Chloride, NaCL, and Fluoride based solutions

Sterilization
- Do dry instruments before sterilization
- Do use autoclave sterilization and follow manufacturer’s recommendations
- Do allow for complete drying cycle

Storing
- Do thoroughly dry before storing
XP Technology Curettes and Scalers

American Eagle Instruments

*The patented XP Technology creates an instrument edge that requires no sharpening during its lifetime.*

According to American Eagle Instruments, the technology behind XP instruments is what differentiates them from other manufacturers’ instruments. XP Technology is a patented surface engineering process in which the metallurgical composition of the instrument’s surface is enhanced, giving it the properties of a more durable and significantly harder material. This process creates an edge that eliminates the time-consuming and imperfect process of re-sharpening instruments.

Because the blades are designed to not be sharpened, American Eagle manufactures the instruments to be as thin as possible. These thin blades allow for easier access into periodontal pockets and interproximal areas, aiding in patient comfort. The rounded opposing edge reduces tissue trauma.

Beyond improving patient care, XP Technology instruments are designed to be comfortable for the user. The increased sharpness of the blade improves tactile sensitivity, which allows for a light grip. Only a small amount of pressure is needed to remove calculus and tartar.

Thirteen hygienists participated in this Dental Product Shopper evaluation of XP Technology curettes and scalers. They rated and commented on criteria such as tactile sensitivity, user comfort, blade sharpness and thickness, and time savings.

**Tactile Sensitivity and Comfort**

The evaluators were asked to rate XP Technology curettes and scalers on several items related to user comfort. When asked about tactile sensitivity, 8 evaluators rated the instruments as excellent, 4 rated them as very good, and 1 rated them as good. An evaluator from Hope Mills, NC, said, "The tactile sensitivity was amazing."

When asked to rate the comfort of XP Technology instruments, 11 evaluators rated them as excellent and 2 rated them as very good. One evaluator said, "The amount of pressure needed to remove calculus was so minimal compared to other instruments [I have] used in the past."

With regard to handle weight and dimension, 10 evaluators rated the instruments as excellent and 3 rated them as very good. An evaluator from Crookston, MN, noted "the light weight design" as one of the things she likes best about the instruments.
Blade Sharpness and Thickness

When asked to rate blade sharpness, 12 evaluators rated the curettes as excellent and 1 rated them as very good. With regard to blade thickness, 9 rated them as excellent, 3 rated them as very good, and 1 rated them as fair.

Ten evaluators named blade sharpness as a favorite feature of the instruments. An evaluator from Kuttawa, KY, said, "Every time I picked up [the curette], I knew it would be sharp." An evaluator with 12 years of experience said, "The way that these instruments retain their cutting edge is amazing." This same evaluator described the XP Technology curettes as much better than similar instruments and said she would definitely recommend them to colleagues.

Time Savings

American Eagle Instruments describes the elimination of sharpening of the XP Technology instruments as a time saver for practices. When asked to rate the time savings they experienced with the curettes, 8 rated them as excellent, 4 rated them as very good, and 1 rated them as good. The evaluators were then asked how they used the time gained from not sharpening the XP Technology instruments. Several evaluators mentioned that they were able to incorporate more patient education into their daily routine. One evaluator said, "I am able to complete my other responsibilities without feeling so stressed or not getting them done on time." Another evaluator said, "I've actually been able to leave for lunch on time. I used to save 15 minutes of my lunch break to sharpen [instruments]."

Overall Satisfaction

At the end of the evaluation, the hygienists were asked to give their overall satisfaction rating for the XP Technology instruments. Nine rated them as excellent and 4 rated them as very good. An evaluator from West Nyack, NY, said, "The XP Instruments remove calculus better than any other I've used."
How Instruments Increase Productivity

An efficient hygiene operatory supports the numbers for the business

By Jennifer Schultz, RDH

Tracking numbers is essential to every business. Even though a dental office is a health-care business, it still needs to turn a profit in order to support the team that works there. As a dental hygiene consultant, tracking practice numbers is something that we evaluate daily. Dental hygiene production numbers are something that you may or may not be familiar with. Some practice owners do not discuss production numbers; for others, it is a topic that is discussed daily. Whether you are familiar with the production numbers or not, evaluating how a dental hygiene practice can be more efficient and profitable is an important part of any successful business.

The evaluation of a dental practice makes it easy to see that the hygiene department is at the center. Hygiene appointments are what bring the majority of the patients into the office a few times each year. The continuing care appointment is focused time on the patient by the hygienist, which is essential in building patient relationships. The majority of the doctor's schedule is filled through diagnosing treatment from the hygiene appointment. A well-run hygiene department is integral to practice success. To accomplish this, dental hygienists need to continually evaluate the hygiene systems and protocols, as well as consider alternative options that may increase production for continued success of the department.

In most industries around the world, time equals money, and dentistry is no exception. To increase production, an office can either raise fees or become more efficient at what they are doing, allowing them to schedule more procedures in a day. You might be wondering how a dental hygienist could increase efficiency, so let's look at what some hygienists have done to do just that.

Our hygiene instruments are an integral yet often overlooked aspect of our job. The dental hygienist’s hand instruments are essential in helping our patients achieve health. Hygienists use many hand instruments on every patient. Yet, they often pay very little attention to them. We struggle to find the time (and desire) to sharpen them, for example. When it is time to order new instruments, we often

Courtesy of Gutkowski/Kinsell/Stone
continue to order what we have used in the past, because that is what we know and are comfortable with, or because we are afraid to gamble on a new brand.

When evaluating a new instrument for purchase, there are six areas that are most often considered.

- Tips on the instrument. The tips are an important part of instrumentation since the shape of the tip must fit against the tooth to achieve optimum calculus removal. The tip design reflects how often you need to flip the instrument to access specialized areas, or place it on the tray and grab a new one.

- Ergonomics of the handle. The handle is important due to the repetition of instrumentation and the hand problems that some hygienists experience. A larger handle tends to be more comfortable for the hygienist as she/he doesn’t need to have as tight of a grip on the handle. Some instrument handles are shaped so that there are different diameters to lessen the repetitive pinch grip.

- Length of time that the instrument stays sharp. Hygienists love using brand new instruments because they are sharp and can remove deposit more quickly and easily than with dull instruments. The challenge is in achieving the cutting edge created at the factory with hand sharpening.

- What tips are on the instrument?
- Color of the handle
- Whether we have a relationship with the salesperson
- How easy is it to identify the instrument at a distance?
- Cost

This may not seem like a big deal; however, multiple instrument changes for each patient add up to a lot of time and contribute to repetitive stresses on small muscles throughout the day. Similar to taking a full set of radiographs and organizing your method according to the smallest number of X-ray holder changes, we need to evaluate how an instrument will affect the number of instrument changes needed.

- Color of the handle

Ideally, instruments should be sharpened before use on every patient. Realistically, they should be sharpened at least once each week. In the majority of offices, sharpening isn’t even accomplished once a month. Employees who work for instrument companies sharpen over 150 instruments every day. It is extremely difficult for dental hygienists to become proficient in sharpening when they do not have much time to devote to it.

Understanding how important it is to work with sharp instruments, and how difficult it is to find the time and desire to sharpen, let’s explore some alternatives. Hu-Friedy has a line of instruments called EverEdge that do not need to be sharpened as often. They use a stainless steel alloy to help instruments stay sharp longer. This will lengthen the time the cutting edge stays sharp after sharpening.

Sending your instruments out to be sharpened is another option. Nordent has an instrument sharpening service and will sharpen any instrument that is mailed to them. Nordent returns your instrument within 48 hours after receiving.

In addition to the six areas, there are other factors that may influence the decision to purchase a new instrument. For example, some hygienists prefer instruments that are easy to identify at a distance, while others may prioritize cost over all other factors. It is important to evaluate the needs of the individual hygienists and the office as a whole when making this decision.
An instrument sharpening service ensures that the instrument will keep the factory cutting edge. However, you will need additional instruments so that it will not affect your ability to see patients while some of your instruments are being sharpened.

While attending a recent CareerFusion conference, I had the opportunity to learn more about American Eagle instruments and speak with hygienists who have used them. One type of American Eagle instrument does not require sharpening — ever! This means that you will always have the factory cutting edge without the drudgery of sharpening for the life of the instrument.

American Eagle also creates a line of curettes that have a double cutting edge on each end. This allows you to replace two instruments with one. You will spend less time searching for instruments on the tray and repositioning yourself with the new instrument. You also can scale all mesial and distal surfaces without flipping the instrument. The entire handle of all American Eagle instruments are thick, light, and brightly colored. This allows you to easily identify which instrument you would like from a distance without having to pick up the instrument and study the handle for the instrument number.

- Cost. While cost is always a factor in evaluating instruments, it does not directly reflect efficiency and productivity in the hygiene department. Cost does, however, have an effect on the office overhead and needs to be considered.

To evaluate the cost of an instrument, we need to step back a bit and look not only at the price of each instrument but also at how many instruments are needed for a setup. In an average instrument setup, there are approximately six instruments — a sickle scaler, 204S, Gracey 1/2, 7/8, 11/2, and 13/14. If you can replace six instruments with four, that will likely save the office money.

Another factor when evaluating the cost of instruments is the cost in sharpening. If you send your instruments out to be sharpened, that is a direct expense. However, time that a hygienist spends sharpening is also an expense. There are other tasks she/he could be accomplishing with open time that would immediately benefit the practice.

Let’s look at the following example. If a dental hygienist spends one hour per month sharpening instruments during unfilled time in the schedule, by switching to instruments that never need to be sharpened, she/he could use that time for reactivating hygiene patients. In one hour, the hygienist could make approximately 30 calls to patients that are overdue for their hygiene appointment. Patients that speak with their hygienist are more likely to schedule an appointment. Of the 30 phone calls that the dental hygienist makes, suppose she/he was able to schedule two hygiene patients. The average cost of a routine hygiene appointment is $150 so that is an added $300 to the practice each month, as well as helping two more patients care for their dental health. That makes the dental hygienist a valuable team player!

Dental hygienists need to continually evaluate their protocols and systems in an office. As the technology of dental products and services improves, it allows hygienists to increase efficiency, patient care, and productivity. I challenge you to consider your instruments and identify untapped potential that would decrease stress, increase efficiency for you and your patients, and increase productivity for your office.  

JENNIFER SCHULTZ, RDH, is a certified consultant with HygieneFusion and Bent Ericksen & Associates. She is a member of the Academy of Dental Management Consultants (ADMC) and Speaking Consulting Network (SCN). She can be contacted at jenniferschultz@mchsi.com.
Staying sharp with hand instruments

While more clinicians are embracing ultrasonic scaling as their primary debridement tool, hand instruments still have a place in the treatment room for most of us. There are a number of companies that make hand instruments, and just like any other commodity, there are differences between each company's product lines that can have a significant impact on hand health.

Decades ago, hand instruments were made with skinny handles that were often smooth. Since slender handles force clinicians to use a tighter pinch-grip to hold on to the instrument, large diameter instruments began to appear in the marketplace three decades ago. Textured handles help clinicians use a light grasp since texture equals traction. Every manufacturer has its own signature texture patterns. The design is not critical, but the presence of texture is key.

Instrument handles are made with either lightweight composite resin materials, or are fabricated using a hollow stainless steel tube, which eliminates unnecessary weight. Some clinicians feel the resin handles reduce the risk of cumulative trauma disorders in the hand and wrist, while others prefer the feel of a metal handle. The length of the actual instrument also makes a difference. Clinicians with small hands often prefer an instrument with a short handle, while those with large hands are able to balance a long instrument more comfortably.

Instrument sharpness is a key element to preventing hand fatigue and excessive instrumentation. There are many ways to sharpen scalers and curettes. Some use an Arkansas stone, others work with ceramic stones, and many use some type of machine or rotating stone to keep the edges sharp. No matter how proficient one may feel with instrument sharpening, it is nearly impossible to maintain, much less restore a sharp edge to these tiny blades. To further compound the problem, every clinician sharpens a bit differently. So in the end, most hand instruments don't get sharpened often enough, which results in a dull instrument that requires more force and more strokes, and often results in burnished calculus.

OK, I bow down to those who feel proficient in sharpening, but is sharpening the best use of our time? With every sharpening the blade gets thinner and thinner, which increases the risk of breakage. Since most of us are not good at the task, could our precious time be better used seeing another patient, or encouraging a patient to schedule needed treatment?

With the exception of one unique patented metal alloy, curettes and scaler blades are made with cryogenically treated stainless steel alloys. About five years ago, American Eagle Instruments introduced a line of hand instruments with blades made from their XP technology, a metal alloy that is a game changer in the world of hand instruments. XP technology is not a coating applied to the surface of a stainless steel instrument, but rather a specially filtered titanium nitride/stainless steel alloy. The alloy is considerably harder than traditional stainless steel, and results in a blade that remains sharp over a protracted period of time.

When traditional stainless steel instruments are manufactured, the blades are made thicker and wider to account for the reduction in size over time through sharpening. Instruments made with XP technology are thinner and smaller since the instrument will retain the original factory sharpness for a time similar to the life span of a traditional curette or scaler. The cutting edges of an XP instrument should be periodically tested with a traditional test stick. When the blade is no longer sharp, it is important to remove the instrument from service. Attempting to sharpen it will result in a dangerously small blade that is subject to breakage.

There are a few simple tips for using XP instruments. Be mindful of the blade sharpness. Lighten your grasp and lightly plane deposits away. Excessive force or pressure with any sharp instrument is not necessary and has the potential to remove excessive root structure.

The initial cost of XP technology is comparable to other brands of premium stainless steel instruments, but the savings in time, frustration, and wear and tear on the hands make this technology a breakthrough for hand instrumentation and a big contribution to our comfort zone, office efficiency, and productivity.
Name:____________________________________________
Practice Name:____________________________________
Practice Address: __________________________________
City: _____________________________________________
State: ____________________________________________
Zip: ______________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________
Practice Phone: ____________________________________

Please register my office for XP Rewards. ☐Yes ☐No

Please complete this form (back and front) prior to receiving an instrument.
Course Evaluation

Date:_________________________
Speaker:_______________________
Course Title:___________________

Presentation Content
What is your key takeaway from this presentation?
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

I found the information in this lecture interesting. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

The information presented will be useful in my daily practice. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

Based on the information, I plan to change my instrument choice. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

Presenter
The presenter was organized and easy to follow. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

The presenter's style added to the presentation. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

The presenter seemed knowledgeable on the subject matter. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

Overall Rating

In my opinion, the course was better than most courses I attend. Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

In my opinion, the overall rating of this course is:
Poor    Fair    Good    Excellent

Additional Comments:
Contemporary Instrument Sharpening Systems

I. Learning Objectives:

A. Attain overview of contemporary techniques and available systems
B. Leave with a few practical application pearls to implement at next sharpening session.

II. Back to basics....Who, what, when, where, why...?

Notes:

III. Manual Sharpening: The old way and the newer way
A. Traditional method: Stone is stationary; Move the instrument.
   Historically taught in dental hygiene training. Still used by many clinicians.
   a. Advantage: User friendly; utilizes stroke in one direction only.
   b. Disadvantage: Difficult to visualize correct angle. Potential to alter the shape of the instrument over time after numerous sharpening(s). Honing required to prevent burs.
   c. How to: Place instrument against stone, as if you are adapting it to a tooth surface. Divide into thirds and sharpen the heel, middle and toe with just a few, short, light strokes in a forward direction only. Hone the instrument by rolling the face against the curved section of your stone, or by using a cylindrical stone.
   d. Use a test stick to check; or examine for reflection of light
B. **The “newer” way:** Instrument is stationary; Move the stone. Currently taught in dental hygiene curriculums. Used by many clinicians.

1. Advantage: Easier to visualize correct angle, using the Hugh-Friedy’s “clock” method.
2. Disadvantage: Not easy to visualize for some. Uses an up and down stroke, with a finish on the down stroke. Using twice as many strokes potentially wears the metal faster, hence forcing the need to replace instruments more frequently.

**How to:** View full video at Hu-Friedy's It's About Time Sharpening [FULL] - YouTube
www.youtube.com/watch?v=z05sQSYpxJs

3. **Key Principles**

   a. Sickle scalers, universals and graceys will be held with the tip to be sharpened at 6:00. Instrument will be held in the non-dominant hand, pointing toward you. HINT: Keeping the face of instrument tip parallel to the counter top, (as if it were a teaspoon holding syrup) ensures proper position for sharpening, regardless of which instrument is being sharpened.

   b. The stone (lubricated), held in the dominant hand, will start at 12:00 and be moved 4 minutes toward 1:00 for right handed individuals; 4 minutes toward 11:00 for lefties. The 4-minutes “after” or “before” zone is correct position for stone to sharpen at, using an up and down stroke. Move by thirds from the heel to the middle to the base of the instrument.

   c. Universals and gracey curettes need to have the rounded shape of toe sharpened and maintained. Sharpen by rotating the instrument to 2:00 and the stone to 3:00 and gently going around the toe.

   d. Hone to remove any burs by rolling the instrument against the curved edge of the stone.

   e. Use a test stick to check for sharpness; or use magnification and check for light reflection. If light reflected, edge is not yet sharp.
IV. **Handpiece/Mounted stone (as per Diane Glasscoe Watterson)**

A. Advantage: Because metal is being removed from the face, both sides are sharpened simultaneously.
B. Disadvantage: Because both sides are sharpened simultaneously, the instrument may weaken prematurely and wear faster.

**C. How to:** Use a high-speed handpiece and a mandrel mounted stone.

1. Hold instrument in left hand with face of blade parallel to floor and toe pointed toward you.
2. Grasp handpiece with right hand; Fulcrum on left hand.
3. Lay stone flat against face of blade.
4. Press rheostat and gently swipe stone toward toe. Only a few strokes necessary. Evaluate for sharpness using test stick or light reflection

**Order the video:** ($25-includes 2 stones):
http://www.professionaldentalmgmt.com/the-better-way-to-sharpen-dental-instruments.html

**Ordering stones:** FG (Friction Grip). Use a white stone for routine sharpening. (PN0243) Use a green stone, more abrasive, for very dull instruments. (PN0103). **These Shofu stones can be ordered through your supplier.**

**Notes:**

V. **Gleason Guide:** The PDT-Gleason Guide has an angle rest that aligns the dental tool as the hygienist moves along the stone and stainless steel guide. Google “Gleason Guide” for a YouTube video with instructions.

VI. **Instrument Sharpening “Devices”**

A. Periostar 3000 by Kerr, and distributed by Integra Miltex 866-854-8300.

1. Instrument is clamped onto device while stone moves around it as it sharpened. Does not rely on human hand to dictate movement and pressure.

**Notes:**

**Notes:**

C. InstRenew by Nordent: 75 degree angle is always maintained! [nordent.com/instrenew/index.html](http://nordent.com/instrenew/index.html)

**Notes:**

V. **Instrument Sharpening Services**
   A. Numerous services available. Google Instrument sharpening services. Big names (Hu-Friedy, Schein, Nordent) as well as less known names. Pricing on one service was “...starting at .99 per tip” (Goldman)

VI. **Re-tipping (Yes, reduced costs, but is the risk worth it?)**
   A. Why it is not recommended:
      1. Potential altered balance and alignment, hence less stability.
      2. Angle of blades and original shank and cutting edge can be altered.
      3. Potential cracks in handle allowing for debris to collect at the junction of handle and working end.
      4. Potential different rate of oxidization due to processing of dissimilar metals and steel quality differences resulting in corrosion.
   B. Not recommended...as an alternative, many companies offer incentive programs for sending back used instruments.

VII. If you do not sharpen...
   A. You will not remove calculus as effectively
   B. You will need more pressure, which will potentially result in more discomfort to your patient.
   C. You will potentially leave burnished calculus behind, resulting in a disservice to your patient.
   D. You will distress your self ergonomically; potentially resulting in long-term physical breakdown.
   E. Scaling is not fun with dull instruments! You will be frustrated!

**References furnished upon request!**

Thank you!
Small Cassette Instrument Information

Instrument:

1- Double Gracey Posterior XP (Yellow Handle) AEDGPX PX
2- Double Gracey Anterior XP (Purple Handle) AEDGAX PX
3- Blackjack Scaler XP (Black Handle) AESBJZ
4- M23 Thin Scaler XP (Black Handle) AESM23TX PX
5- Barnhart 5-6 XP (Red Handle) AECB5-6 XPZ

*Instrument Cassette (Stainless Steel Cassette) AEOVSSL5R


2: Double-bladed Gracey that combines Gracey 1-2 and 7-8. Can replace Graceys 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, & all universal curettes.

3: Anterior scaler with longer shank to reach posterior. Comparable to Montana Jack® (but with a 4mm longer shank) and Hu-FreidyTM Nevi 4®.

4: Posterior scaler that adapts to anterior teeth

5: Posterior/Narrow blade, deeper shank angle for posteriors. One of the most popular universal posterior curettes.

Cassette that holds 5 instruments and features a flow-through design that allows maximum circulation for effective ultrasonic cleaning. The double-hinged design allows for easier visibility of instruments.

To order, please contact your favorite dental dealer or visit www.am-eagle.com.