

Dental Instruments Names List

71 common dental hand instruments with pictures, alternative names and what each one is used for

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Examination & diagnostic instruments

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The basic examination kit: every patient visit starts with these instruments.



Mouth mirror

Dental mirror, No. 4 / No. 5 mirror

Indirect vision, light reflection and retraction of the cheek and tongue. Plain, front-surface and HD glass types.



Mirror handle

Cone-socket handle

Holds the screw-in mirror head. Available in steel, silicone and lightweight resin handles.



Explorer (No. 23)

Shepherd's hook, dental probe (sharp)

Detects calculus, defective margins and surface irregularities by tactile feel.



Periodontal probe (CP-12)

Pocket probe, UNC-type probe

Measures pocket depth and attachment loss with millimetre markings.



WHO probe

CPI / BPE probe, ball-end probe

0.5 mm ball tip used for periodontal screening (CPI / BPE) and gentle pocket assessment.



Nabers probe

Furcation probe

Curved probe for detecting and classifying furcation involvement on multi-rooted teeth.



College tweezer

Cotton pliers, dressing pliers

Places and removes cotton rolls, pellets and small items in the mouth.

Periodontal & hygiene instruments

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Scalers remove supragingival calculus; curettes work below the gumline and on root surfaces.



Sickle scaler (H6/H7)

Anterior sickle

Pointed, triangular blade for supragingival calculus in anterior regions.



Sickle scaler (204SD)

Posterior sickle, 204S

Contra-angled sickle for interproximal calculus on posterior teeth.



Hoe scaler

Periodontal hoe

Pull stroke for heavy, ledge-type calculus on accessible surfaces.



Universal curette (M23A)

Universal scaler / curette

Two cutting edges; one instrument adapts to all tooth surfaces.



Columbia curette (4R/4L)

Universal curette

Classic universal curette for subgingival scaling in all regions.



Gracey curette (11/12)

Area-specific curette

One cutting edge, designed for specific teeth and surfaces (11/12 = posterior mesial).



Mini Gracey curette

Mini-five / micro Gracey

Shorter blade for deep, narrow pockets and furcations.



Langer curette

Gracey-shank universal curette

Gracey shank with a universal blade: 1/2 lower posterior, 3/4 upper posterior.



Implant curette (titanium)
 Implant-safe curette, blue titanium
 Titanium working end for cleaning implant surfaces without scratching them.



Kirkland knife
 Periodontal knife, gingivectomy knife
 Kidney-shaped blade for gingivectomy and gingival contouring.

Restorative & filling instruments

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From caries removal to placing, shaping and finishing the restoration.



Round excavator
 Spoon excavator, round
 Removes soft carious dentine with a scooping motion.



Spoon excavator
 Oval excavator
 Larger oval spoon for bulk removal of caries and temporary material.



Gingival margin trimmer
 GMT, mesial / distal
 Bevels and planes the gingival cavity margin in Class II preparations.



Filling instrument (PFI 6)
 Plastic filling instrument, flat plastic
 Carries and shapes composite, glass ionomer and liners.



Composite spatula
 Mini spatula, placement spatula
 Places and smooths composite in the cavity.



Plastic instrument (anterior)
 Composite modelling instrument
 Non-stick instrument for building anterior contours.



Condenser
 Form condenser, packer
 Condenses restorative material into the cavity and against the matrix.



Amalgam condenser
 Amalgam plugger
 Serrated or smooth ends to pack amalgam in increments.



Ball burnisher
 Burnisher & plugger
 Smooths and adapts the restoration surface and matrix band.



Carver (Nystrom)
 Anatomical carver
 Carves occlusal anatomy into the unset restoration.



Heidemann spatula
 Cement spatula / plastic instrument
 Mixes and places cements, liners and temporary materials.



Cord packer
 Retraction cord packer
 Packs retraction cord into the sulcus before impressions.



Tofflemire matrix retainer
 Matrix band holder
 Holds a matrix band to form the missing wall of a Class II cavity.



Cement spatula
 Mixing spatula
 Mixes cements and impression materials on a pad or glass slab.

Rubber dam & isolation

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Rubber dam gives a dry, clean field for restorative and endodontic work.



Rubber dam punch

Ainsworth punch

Punches holes of different sizes in the dam sheet.



Rubber dam clamp forceps

Brewer / Ivory clamp forceps

Opens, places and removes the rubber dam clamp.



Rubber dam clamp (12A)

Molar clamp, winged / wingless

Anchors the dam on the tooth; shapes are tooth-specific (molar, premolar, anterior).



Anterior clamp (B4)

Butterfly clamp

Retracts the dam and gingiva on anterior teeth for cervical restorations.

Endodontic instruments

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Hand instruments for locating canals and obturating the root canal system.



Endo explorer

Canal explorer

Long, fine tip for locating canal orifices.



Endo spreader

Finger / hand spreader

Creates space for accessory cones in lateral condensation.



Endo plugger

Vertical condenser

Flat tip for vertical compaction of warm gutta-percha.



Endo tweezer

Locking tweezer, cross-action tweezer

Holds paper points and gutta-percha cones securely.



Micro mirror

Endo mirror, micro-surgical mirror

Very small / thin mirror head for work under the microscope.

Extraction & oral surgery instruments

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Forceps and elevators for extractions, plus the core surgical kit for flaps and suturing.



Upper molar forceps

Extraction forceps No. 17 / 18R / 18L

Beaks shaped to the buccal and palatal roots of upper molars.



Lower molar forceps

Extraction forceps No. 13 / 22 / 23 (cowhorn)

Grip the bifurcated roots of lower molars and premolars.



Lower anterior forceps

Extraction forceps No. 74

Narrow beaks for lower incisors, canines and roots.



Straight elevator (Bein)

Straight root elevator

Luxates teeth and roots before forceps are applied.



Luxating elevator

Luxator

Thin, sharp blade that cuts the periodontal ligament for atraumatic extraction.



Cryer elevator

Winter / East-West elevator

Triangular blade for removing a remaining root after the neighbouring root is out.



Root tip elevator (Heidbrink)

Root tip pick

Very fine blade for fractured apical root tips.



Periotome

Atraumatic extraction instrument

Severs the periodontal ligament to preserve bone for implants.



Periosteal elevator (Molt)

Molt 9, Nordberg elevator

Lifts the mucoperiosteal flap from the bone.



Surgical curette (Lucas)

Bone curette, alveolar curette

Removes granulation tissue and debris from extraction sockets.



Bone file

Howard bone file

Smooths sharp bone edges after extraction.



Scalpel handle (No. 3)

Bard-Parker handle

Holds blades No. 11, 12, 15 and 15c for incisions.



Needle holder

Castroviejo, Mathieu, Crile-Wood

Grips the suture needle; micro types for fine sutures.



Suture scissors

Stitch scissors

Cuts suture material; some have a notch for removing sutures.



Iris scissors

Fine tissue scissors

Small, sharp scissors for trimming soft tissue.



La Grange scissors

Gum scissors, double-curved

Double-curved blades for trimming gingival tissue.



Goldman-Fox scissors

Periodontal scissors

Serrated blade for trimming tissue during periodontal surgery.



Surgical tweezer (1:2)

Tissue forceps, rat-tooth forceps

Teeth at the tip grip soft tissue without slipping.



Mosquito forceps

Haemostat, Halsted-Mosquito

Clamps vessels and grasps small fragments or root tips.



Langenbeck retractor

Tissue retractor

Holds the flap and cheek away from the surgical site.



Minnesota retractor

Cawood-Minnesota cheek retractor

Retracts the cheek and flap for access and visibility.



Surgical mallet

Mead hammer

Used with osteotomes and chisels in bone surgery.

Anaesthesia, prosthetics & orthodontics

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Other hand instruments found in most general practices.



Dental syringe

Cartridge syringe, aspirating syringe
Holds the anaesthetic cartridge for local anaesthesia.



Crown remover

Crown & bridge remover
Removes temporary and permanent crowns.



Impression tray

Perforated stock tray
Carries impression material into the mouth.



Mathieu plier

Ligature plier, Mathieu needle holder
Places elastic and steel ligatures in orthodontics.



Weingart plier

Universal ortho plier
Guides and bends archwires into brackets.



Bracket removal plier

Debonding plier
Removes brackets at the end of orthodontic treatment.



Ligature tucker

Ortho director
Tucks ligature ends and seats archwires.

Organisation & sterilisation

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Keep instruments together through use, cleaning and sterilisation.



Sterilisation cassette

Instrument cassette
Holds a full set of instruments through washer and autoclave.



Instrument tray

ErgoTray, set-up tray
Tray set-up for the chairside procedure.

Instrument pictures: ErgoDenta product range. Names in the orange line are common alternative or trade names. This list is a general reference for dental teams, students and buyers and does not replace manufacturer instructions or clinical training. Full range and product details: ergodenta.dk/shop · ErgoDenta ApS, Denmark.