



Instrument Rust and Stain Guide





Checking for Rust

When cleaning your instruments, it's also a good time to check for damage and inspect their overall condition. Here are just some of the things to look out for when inspecting your instruments:

- Cracks, especially around joint areas
- Broken tips or burs
- Check Ratchets are smooth and the tips meet correctly
- Missing parts - screws/springs
- Worn out needle holder jaws or missing tungsten carbide inserts
- Isolate any issues and schedule for repair/replacement



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Visually inspect
scissor blades
checking for burs or
chips in the steel

Inspect both
tips for burs

Inspect screw
hinge area for
cracks

Look for stains
or rust in the
hinged area

Open and close
ring handles to
ensure smooth
cutting action



Surgical Scissors



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Inspect tips
and serrations

Inspect teeth on
tissue forceps to
ensure all are intact

Check
proximal end
for cracks

If forceps have
serrations,
inspect them for
bioburden

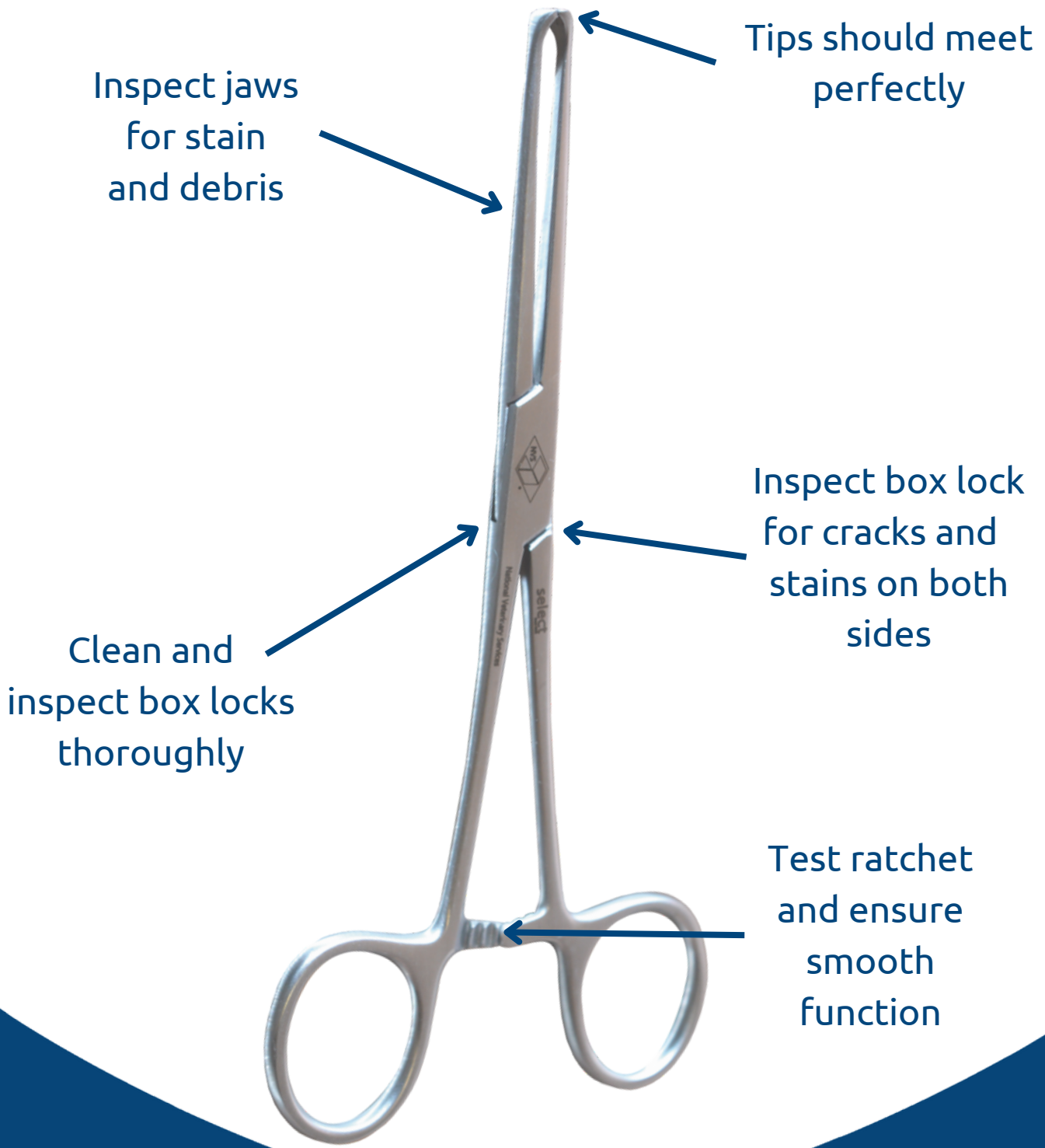


Dressing & Tissue Forceps



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Inspect jaws
for stain
and debris

Tips should meet
perfectly

Inspect box lock
for cracks and
stains on both
sides

Clean and
inspect box locks
thoroughly

Test ratchet
and ensure
smooth
function

Haemostatic Forceps



Inspect jaws for wear - Tungsten Carbide jaws can be replaced

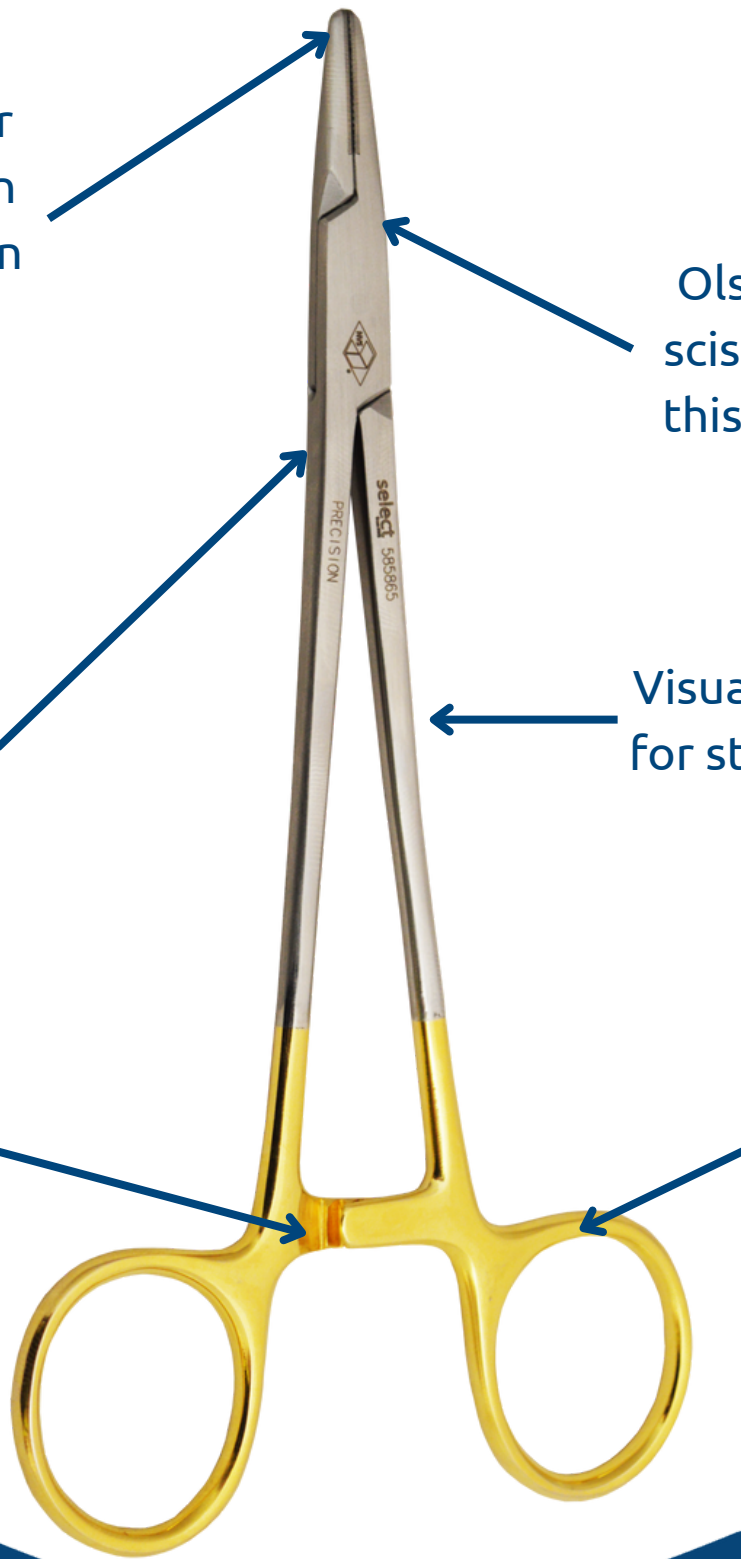
Olsen-Hegar has scissor edge. Test this for sharpness

Inspect screw area for cracks and stains

Visually inspect for stains & rust

Test ratchet to ensure working correctly

Gold Rings indicate tungsten carbide jaws



Needle Holders Tungsten Carbide



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Worn Needle Holder Jaws

Various states of wear below.

TIP: Ratchet the needle holder to the last ratchet. Now hold the ratcheted needle holder up to a light...if light comes through at the distal portion of the tip...the jaws most likely require replacement.



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Corrosion Review

Rust or Stain?

Colour	Cause of Stain	What to do
Orange-Brown to Reddish stain (looks like rust)	<p>Do eraser test, if stain rubs off and no pitting exists, problem is most likely from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detergent residue on towels or high alkaline pH detergent is being used leaving a phosphate surface deposit Dried blood Iodine or Betadine residue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to neutral pH detergent Check pH of towels with litmus to verify if detergent residues are present Rinse the instruments in warm water for at least 30 seconds Use a stain remover on both the instruments and autoclaves If problem persists, consider changing to distilled or demineralised water. Particularly if local water supply is high in iron or other minerals
Black, Brown & Pitting	<p>Subjected to an acidic low pH substance such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low pH detergent residues on instrument Surface or from towels Exposed to other chemical compounds from "cold soaking" Exposure to bleach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to neutral pH detergent Check pH of towels with litmus to verify if detergent residues are present Eliminate exposure to chemicals or bleach Rinse thoroughly and consider using distilled or demineralised water. Particularly if local water supply is high in Iron or other minerals Use stain remover on both the instruments and autoclaves Eliminate any use of bleach If pitting remains, send instrument back to manufacturer for evaluation
Rainbow or Multi-Colour	Heat compromised, tensile strength is compromised	Check the autoclave for proper temperature
Bluish-Green Bluish-Black	Cross Contamination between dissimilar metals	Separate instruments by type before cleaning or autoclaving
Bluish-Grey (w/possible pitting)	Improper preparation of cold sterilisation solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow solution manufacturer's directions closely, particularly temp. & soak times Use distilled or demineralized water Change solution per mfg instructions
Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sterilizing instruments of dissimilar metals in the same cycle Chemicals in detergents or excess amounts of Iron or Other minerals from local water supply New Instruments may be slightly magnetized during the manufacturing process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate instruments by metal types prior to sterilisation Use neutral pH detergents and change to distilled or demineralised water. Particularly if local water supply is known to contain Iron or other minerals Wipe off as much residue leaving shiny metal underneath. Use a stain remover on both the instruments and autoclaves After several autoclaving sequences, the instruments lose their magnetic property

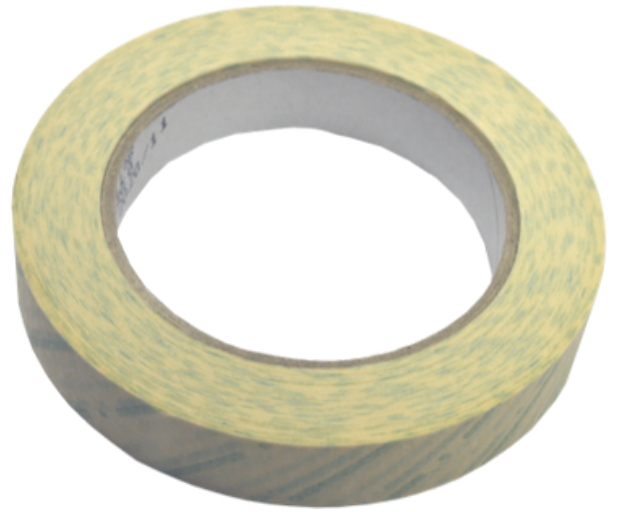


Instrument Sterilisation



Purified Water Grade 3 ISO 3696

High quality purified water for use within autoclaves, ultrasonic baths, veterinary dental equipment and all steam generating devices.



Autoclave Tape

For use as a steam sterilisation indicator tape. During service, brown lines will indicate that the required steam sterilisation conditions have been attained.



Self Seal Sterilisation Pouches

For use in autoclave and ethylene oxide sterilisers. Our pouches are printed using water-based inks which are less polluting and harmful to the environment than solvent based inks.



Drape Roll

A drape roll suitable for use in surgical procedures or packing instrument kits. Can be sterilised in a vacuum autoclave.



Scan to view our Sterilisation range



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