

What's Hot and What's Getting Hotter

BY HOWARD S. GLAZER, DDS, FAGD

PRODUCT

Provipro Polishers

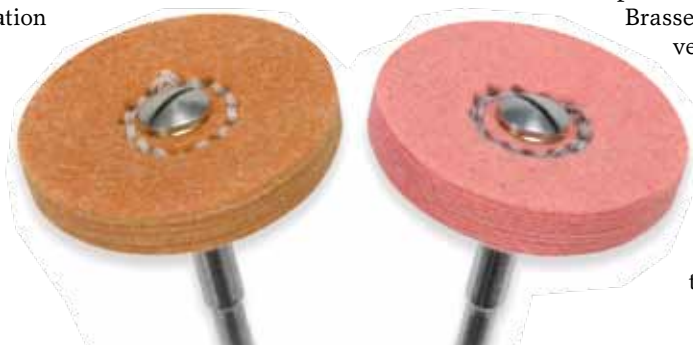
Brasseler USA
One Brasseler Blvd.
Savannah, GA 31419
800.810.4522
www.brasseler.com

Polishing a provisional restoration is necessary for two reasons: First and foremost, it will feel better and be more comfortable for the patient. Second, a smooth surface is easier to maintain and makes it harder for plaque to accumulate. Of course, a nice, smooth, shiny surface

also looks good. Brasseler has recently introduced two new polishing wheels for use on a slow-speed mandrel at approximately 10,000 rpm. The orange wheel is used as a pre-polisher, then the final polish and luster is achieved with the pink wheel. There is no need to apply a

lot of pressure when using these wheels—a simple, firm application will bring up the luster with minimal effort. These wheels are easy to use and I would suggest having several mandrels pre-assembled with these discs to facilitate polishing chairside after making any final adjustments to the provisional restoration(s).

Brasseler already has a very nice and complete provisional finishing and polishing system for composite acrylic, called "Solution." The Provipro Polishers are a nice complement to that system.



EQUIPMENT

Azenic DHP™ Disposable High-Speed Handpiece

Azenic Inc™
350 E. Michigan Ave.
Suite 135
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
888.347.7576
www.azenic.com

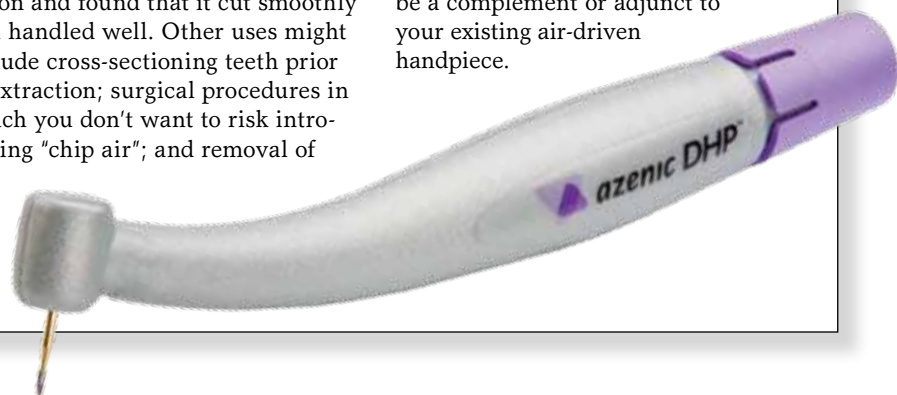
If you are treating a patient who has a medical condition that leaves his or her immune system comprised, you may be concerned about using your "routine" handpiece when treating that patient. Azenic Inc™ has the solution with the Azenic DHP™, a low-cost (approximately \$15), air-driven handpiece that easily connects to either a 4- or 5-hole line in your current setup. The push-pin type bur change is affixed to the connection end when you open the pre-sterilized

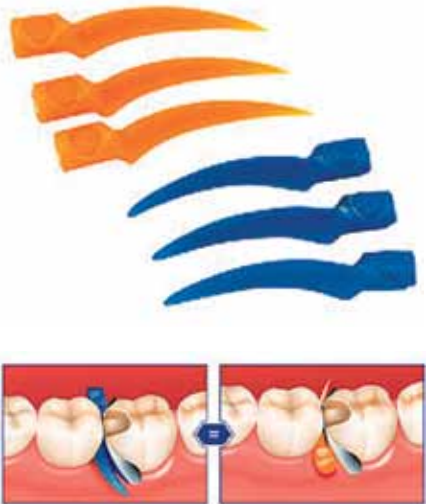
pouch that contains the handpiece. It also has a fiber-optic light output if you have a bulb-in-tubing connection for your normal handpiece. Please remember that this is a single-patient-use-only handpiece that will be fully functional for about one hour of constant use at an operating air pressure of 40 psi.

Undoubtedly this will further enhance your infection control for medically compromised patients, but it also can be used in many other instances. I used it for cavity preparation and found that it cut smoothly and handled well. Other uses might include cross-sectioning teeth prior to extraction; surgical procedures in which you don't want to risk introducing "chip air"; and removal of

difficult crown and bridge units that might otherwise ruin the turbine and bearings on your regular handpiece.

Handpieces can be expensive to purchase and/or repair, and this one could serve as a back-up handpiece for those procedures that can put undue strain on your regular handpiece. The plastic housing handpiece itself is lightweight and well-balanced. It also is remarkably quiet. This is an ideal instrument when there is potential for patient cross-contamination, but it also can be a complement or adjunct to your existing air-driven handpiece.





PRODUCT

Curvy 3D Shaped Anatomical Wedges
 VOCO America, Inc.
 555 Pleasantville Road
 Suite 120-North Building
 Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
 888.658.2584
www.vocoamerica.com

We all know that you can't put a square peg in a round hole. Why, then, do we insist on placing a flat wedge against a curved tooth surface? VOCO has responded by providing a wedge with a three-dimensional shape that follows the natural contour of the tooth and can easily be used with any ring or Tofflemire-type matrix systems.

Wedging is often necessary when restoring a tooth to make sure that there is no excess material in the proximal or cervical areas. The VOCO wedges are fairly atraumatic and have a unique clockwise and counterclockwise curvature that will help to ensure ideal adaptation while protecting the gingiva from injury due to the curved base.

The color-coded plastic wedges are available in small, medium, and large sizes and are easily placed. Of course, with plastic, there is no undue expansion from moisture, splintering, or change of color due to the dye in the wedge material. The system includes a "wheel" of wedges that are easily snapped off, along with simple pictorial instructions.

PRODUCT

Tongue Sweeper
 Biocurv Medical Instruments
 245 Dryden Court SW
 Canton, OH 44706
 800.589.3043
www.tonguesweeper.com

We have all heard the expression, "It's on the tip of my tongue." This might not refer to a lost thought but rather bacteria and remnants of food debris. Microorganisms can contribute to halitosis, and if left in place, these microorganisms can contribute to systemic bacterial infections. Obviously, there is a need to clean the tongue and rid this "reservoir" of potentially harmful bacteria. The most effective way to do this is

using a tongue scraper, and the most effective tongue scraper I have tried thus far is the Tongue Sweeper from Biocurv Medical Instruments. This is a quality device made of medical grade stainless steel that is both autoclavable and dishwasher-safe so that it can be used chairside in the office or by the patient at home. The instrument has a nice, balanced feel and is simple to use by starting at the back of the tongue and moving forward with firm pressure. Patients should be instructed to floss, brush, sweep, and rinse to ensure removal of all debris.

There are three models from which to choose (retail, professional, and

specialty) and all of them are color-coded for personalization. Tongue Sweeper also comes with a customer satisfaction guarantee, as well as a lifetime guarantee on the material and craftsmanship. This is far better than the plastic-type sweepers that often simply "skim" the surface. In this case, sticking out your tongue can have very positive ramifications!



Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD, practices in New Jersey. For the past 20 years, he has lectured and published articles on cosmetic dentistry, forensic dentistry, and patient management. He can be reached at impact@agd.org. Dr. Glazer has not received any remuneration for the products mentioned. He has received products from these and other companies for evaluation purposes. Dr. Glazer evaluates the latest in dental materials, equipment, and technology. All reviews are the opinions of the author, a practicing general dentist, and are not shared or endorsed by AGD Impact or the Academy of General Dentistry. Published with permission by the Academy of General Dentistry. © Copyright 2011 by the Academy of General Dentistry. All rights reserved.