



In *First Impressions*, Dr. George Freedman, DDS, FAACD, FACD, gives readers a brief summary of products that have recently been introduced to dentistry, based on his clinical experience.

1. Tongue 'n Cheek SuperAbsorbent Pads

PADS

We use cotton rolls every day with just about every patient. From the time I went to dental school, and possibly for a century before that, there has not been a change in the technology or the delivery of local moisture control. Today, increasing numbers of procedures are accomplished with minimally invasive dentistry, reducing the need for local anesthesia and making the application of the rubber dam less palatable—hence the need for a super cotton roll. I recently tried Tongue 'n Cheek SuperAbsorbent Pads (Figure 1) from PADS. To my surprise, they absorbed saliva and water, and kept absorbing and absorbing. In fact, they absorb 6 to 10 times as much liquid as a standard cotton roll. Tongue 'n Cheek was developed by Dr. Bruce Fine, who got tired of constantly changing cotton rolls during a procedure, risking the contamination of the preparation or the bonded surface each and every time. He combined standard cellulose sheets with short reinforcing fibers and an anhydrous gel that can absorb massive amounts of liquid. Press on a moist cotton roll and the liquid comes out; press on a Tongue 'n Cheek pad and nothing happens. A single pad can often last the whole procedure. The material comes in multiple-linked pads, which can be used in groups (orthodontics, sealants) or singly (restorative, CEREC, etc). The Tongue 'n Cheek pads are very flexible, causing no wedge displacement (or discomfort) of the cheeks or lips. If a high- or low-speed bur catches the Tongue 'n Cheek, the pad is cut; there is no snag and/or propeller action. The cellulose avoids the "cotton roll burn" that dried cotton can inflict. Super-absorbent pads improve clinical efficiency and patient and dentist comfort. Once you have tried Tongue 'n Cheek SuperAbsorbent Pads, you'll never go back to cotton rolls. ♦

2. The Gripper Tray

Discus Dental

Bite trays...you've gotta love them. You take the impression of the prepared tooth, the opponent, and the bite registration in *one single step*. A timesaver that both the dentists and the patients love, it also offers accurate interpretation of interarch relationships that are difficult to match with separate impressions. Hold on a second—not *everyone* is fond of bite trays. The typical complaints are as follows: not rigid enough to maintain the integrity of the impressions, walls not high enough to keep enough



1 Tongue 'n Cheek SuperAbsorbent Pads

PADS

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2 The Gripper Tray

Discus Dental

For more information, call (800) 422-9448.

wall composite-metal hybrid design keeps impression material in and has grooves for a better post set lock, eliminating adhesives. The thin but rigid distal metal bar stabilizes the Gripper without interfering with the patients' ability to close their jaws completely. The ergonomic handles are large, easy-to-grip, and have a writable finish for easy identification. The Gripper Tray is available in anterior, three-fourths arch, full-arch large and small, as well as quadrant bite trays. The Gripper is great for polyvinyl siloxane impressions including bite registrations, dual-arch impressions for crowns, fabrication of custom trays, study models, night guards, etc. The Gripper Tray is a great timesaver that is fun to use. ♦



3 O-BITE Bite Registration Material

Zenith Dental

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are that the wax will be displaced when it arrives. Now consider the amount of time that must be spent on correcting the wax. In practice, I have been using polyvinyl siloxane materials for many years. They are hard, very fast setting, very accurate, and portable over time and distance. Zenith Dental's O-BITE Bite Registration Material is an orange-scented O-BITE does not require precise placement while its bite registration provides a great visual evaluation of the wax very fast. It is one of the hardest bite registration materials available. This material will not break when it is removed from the waxing trimming, or in transportation.