



# From Good to Great

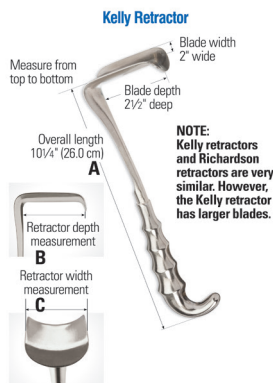
## How to Measure Surgical Instruments



BY RICK SCHULTZ

**S**urgery is the art of precision. Assembling a surgical instrument tray starts with a count sheet, which should always list the proper name and size of each instrument. For example, saying a medium DeBakey forcep is not acceptable. The count sheet should indicate the length and jaw width.

When measuring curved hemostats, place a ruler on the work surface and put the hemostat, curve down, with the rings on the 0 marking on the ruler. The overall length measurement is where the tip lands. When measuring hand-held retractors, such as the Kelly or Richardson, the distal blade has a depth and width measurement, which is crucial (letters A, B and C).

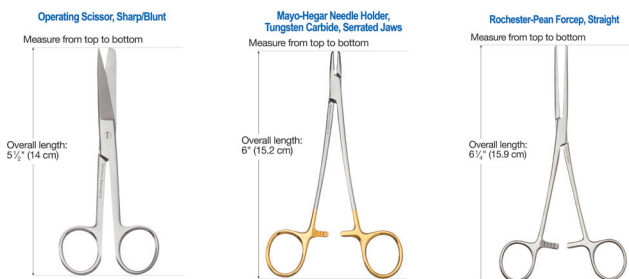


The measurements of nasal speculums should include overall length as well as blade length.



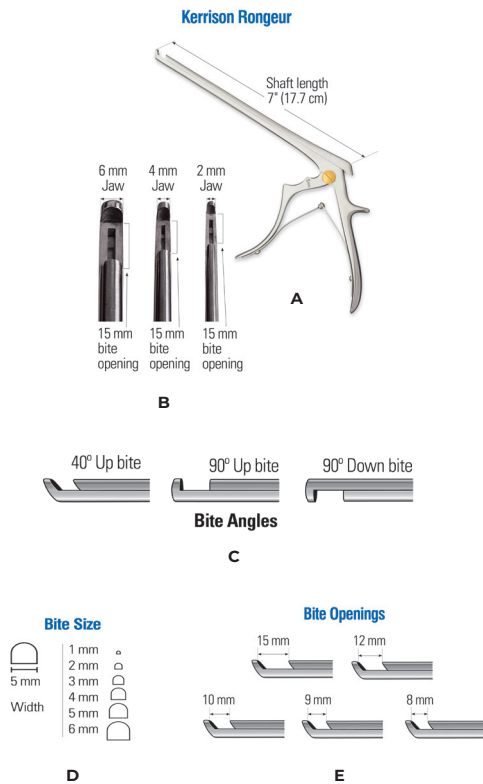
Bayonet forceps, insulated (bipolar) forceps, and non-insulated forceps have an overall length measurement and a working length measurement.

It is vital to always include the rings when measuring the overall length of scissors, hemostats and needle holders.

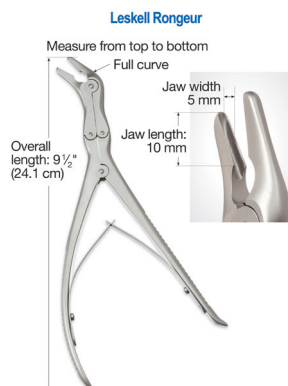




Kerrison rongeurs are very complex and expensive instruments. They have five different measurements: Shaft length (A), bite width (B), bite angle (C), bite size (D) and bite opening (E).



Standard rongeurs (Leksell) in both single action and double action (pictured) have an overall length measurement. The distal tip has both a jaw width and jaw length measurement.



## Quiz

### From Good to Great: How to Measure Surgical Instruments

Please answer the five-question quiz to test your comprehension of the content and be entered for a chance to win a set of the author's Instrument Coaching Cards™. To submit your answers, see the instructions and QR code at the end of the quiz.

1. The rings should not be included when measuring a hemostat. T/F
2. It is acceptable to estimate the length of a curved Metzenbaum scissor. T/F
3. The proper name of an instrument should always be used on a count sheet. T/F
4. All 7" Kerrison have identical distal jaws. T/F
5. Single-action and double-action rongeurs are measured the same way. T/F



Scan the QR code to submit your answers online. The deadline to submit is February 10, 2024. All participants' names will be entered into a drawing to win a set of Instrument Coaching Cards™. Good luck! 🎉





# LEARN & NETWORK IN LOUISVILLE AT HSPA 2025

World-class education and exceptional networking opportunities await for HSPA Conference attendees. It's all taking place at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

*You won't want to miss it!*

Visit [www.myhspa.org/2025conference](http://www.myhspa.org/2025conference) for more information!



## What to Teach a New Technician

1. Demonstrate to new employees how to measure scissors, hemostats and needle holders.
2. Teach new hires the difference between a Kelly and Richardson retractor and how to measure them.
3. Teach proper measuring techniques for curved instruments.
4. Teach how to measure a Kerrison rongeur's shaft length, bite opening and bite angle.
5. Teach how to measure the jaws of a rongeur.
6. Ensure all workstations have a metal ruler with inches and centimeters.



**RICK SCHULTZ**, the Instrument Whisperer™, is an author, inventor, lecturer, and the retired Chief Executive Officer of Spectrum Surgical Instruments Corp. He served as contributing editor of HSPA's *Central Service Technical Manual* (fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth editions). Schultz authored the textbooks *Inspecting Surgical Instruments: An Illustrated Guide* and *The World of Surgical Instruments: The Definitive Inspection Textbook*, which was released in June 2018. In October 2021, Schultz published the veterinary medicine textbook *The World of Surgical Instruments for Animal Health*. Schultz was named HSPA's Educator of the Year in 2002 and the American Hospital Association Educator of the Year in 2006. In 2007, he was named by *Healthcare Purchasing News* as one of the 30 Most Influential People in Healthcare Sterile Processing. Schultz currently provides educational lectures to Sterile Processing professionals at HSPA's annual conferences and conducts Operating Room personnel lectures across the country.

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of HSPA. The content provided in this column is also not a reflection or representation of any other company or organization with which the author may be affiliated.