



Knowledge Is King

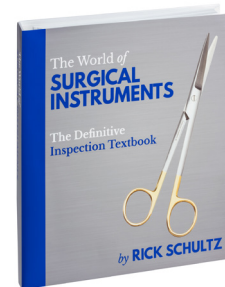
Answer Questions Correctly, Enter for Chance to Win Educational Resources



BY RICK SCHULTZ

If you have been following the “Instrument Whisperer” column over the past several issues, you know that it has included frequently asked questions about scissors, needle holders, hemostats, laparoscopic instruments and Kerrison rongeurs. Most of these true or false questions were taken directly from author and Instrument Whisperer™ Rick Schultz’s book, *The World of Surgical Instruments*.

Now, it is your turn to test your instrument knowledge. Correctly answer the 25 questions below and enter for a chance to win a copy of *The World of Surgical Instruments* or a set of Instrument Coaching Cards. To submit your answers, see the instructions and QR code at the end of this article.



Please answer true (T) or false (F) for each question:

1. The hinged area of a hemostat is called a locked box.
2. During a visual test, if the insulation on a laparoscopic instrument slides back, the instrument is acceptable to use.



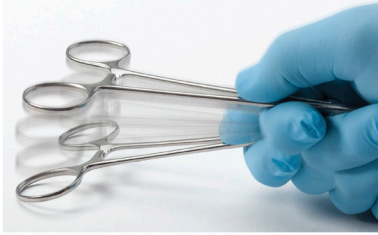
3. A Kerrison rongeur cannot go into an ultrasonic cleaner.

4. All needle holder jaws wear out.
5. Kerrison rongeurs should be stored on a sterilization rack or in a protective case to help reduce damage to the instrument.
6. All scissors become dull.
7. Gold-handled needle holders cannot go into ultrasonic cleaners.
8. The area of a hemostat that is the most critical to inspect is the hinged area.
9. The easiest areas to clean on a laparoscopic instrument are the jaws and distal working portion (linkage).
10. On a Kerrison rongeur, the common bite sizes are 1 to 6 inches.
11. The smooth-jaw needle holder is designed to hold extremely fine suture needles.
12. Gold-handled scissors should be sharpened more frequently.
13. The most common angles on a Kerrison rongeur are 40° up bite, 90° up bite and 90° down bite.

14. All scissors can be resharpener.
15. Cracks in a hemostat can occur if a hemostat undergoes sterilization with its ratchet open.
16. Using an instrument tracking system will allow a facility to track sharpening frequency.
17. Over-clamping is the most common reason cracks occur in hemostats.
18. On a laparoscopic instrument, blood and fluids can hide in the jaws and linkage.
19. Common lengths for Kerrison rongeurs are 7, 8 and 9 inches.
20. Sterilization will dull a scissor.
21. Black handles on a needle holder indicate a tungsten carbide jaw.
22. Only dull scissors should be sent out for resharpener.
23. A bone-ejecting Kerrison rongeur has a pin in the jaw that pushes out/ejects bone to prevent clogging on the cutting edge.
24. To test the ratchets of a needle holder, click each ratchet slowly to




see if the needle holder firmly engages. If it does not, put the needle holder on the first ratchet and gently tap it on a flat work surface (not the palm of your hand). If the ratchet holds after three or four taps, flip the instrument over and repeat the test. If the ratchet springs open during either test, the instrument should be sent out for repair.



Ratchet Testing

25. Scissors can be over-sharpened by inexperienced repair technicians.

To submit your answers, scan the QR code (to access the quiz in a Google Doc) or email your responses to suzanneheckroth4@gmail.com by August 15, 2022 (one entry per person). If multiple people respond correctly to every question, all names will be entered into a drawing. Good luck and remember, knowledge is king. 



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, 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.