



From Good to Great

Advanced Understanding and Care of Hemostats Part 4: Test Your Knowledge



BY RICK SCHULTZ

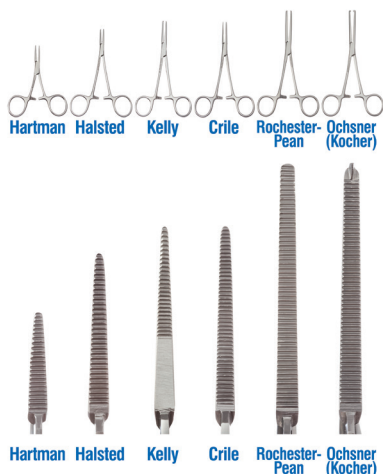
Hemostatic or ring forceps are a large category of surgical instruments that a technician must understand fully. The hemostat is one of the most common instruments in a surgical set. The

naming of each is based on the jaw configuration and the distal tip design. Hemostats have three functions in surgery:

- Clamping blood vessels to control bleeding
- Grasping and securing tissue and superficial fascia during a surgical procedure
- Exposing, exploring and visualizing the deeper areas of a surgical site

The six most common hemostats are the Hartman, Halsted, Kelly, Crile, Rochester-Pean and Ochsner (Kocher). The characteristics of each must be known and memorized.

Read the following and then 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.



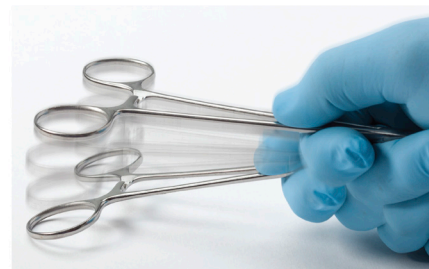
Q: Can a Kelly hemostat be substituted for a Crile?

A: No. They are different instruments and should not be substituted. A Kelly is 5½" long with a half-serrated jaw. A Crile is also 5½" long; however, the jaw is fully serrated.



Q: How should the ratchet of a hemostat be tested?

A: Test the ratchet by slowly locking the ratchet in each position. It should engage firmly. A second test is to lock the instrument on the first ratchet and gently tap the rings 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 for repair.



Ratchet Testing

**Q: What is the hinged area of a hemostat called?**

A: The hinged area of a hemostat is referred to as the box lock.

Q: Why do hemostats crack?

A: Hemostats crack for a variety of reasons. Most commonly, cracks occur when over clamping (using too much pressure) during use or if the instrument was sterilized with the ratchet closed.

Cracked Box Lock

**Q: Can a cracked box lock be welded or repaired?**

A: No. Cracked box locks must never be welded or repaired. This practice will result in an unstable instrument that may crack or rust and cause patient safety issues. An instrument with a cracked box lock should be replaced or sent out for warranty replacement.

Q: Which parts of a hemostat are most challenging to clean?

A: The most difficult parts of a hemostat to clean are the jaws and box lock.

Q: Can hemostats be used as tube clamps?

A: No. Hemostats are too delicate for this use. Using a hemostat as a tube clamp will result in the instrument bending or cracking. Tube clamps, such as Vorse or Presbyterian, are specifically designed for such a purpose.

Q: If the jaws of a hemostat don't meet, can they be repaired?


A: Yes. If the jaws of a hemostat are out of alignment, the instrument can be sent for repair. This is a common repair for hemostats.

Quiz

From Good to Great: Knowledge Required for Advanced Understanding of Hemostatic or Ring Forceps, Part 4

Please answer these five true or false (T/F) questions.

1. The jaws of a hemostat are one of the most difficult areas to clean. T/F
2. The hinged area of a hemostat is called a locked box. T/F
3. A Crile hemostat may be substituted for a Kelly hemostat. T/F
4. A Rochester-Pean hemostat is one of the six most common hemostats. T/F
5. If the jaws of a hemostat are out of alignment, the instrument cannot be repaired and must be replaced. T/F

Scan this QR code to submit your answers online. The deadline to submit is June 10, 2024. The names of all participants who submit correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win a set of Instrument Coaching Cards™. Good luck! 



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.

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