

## CLINICAL: ARTICULATION

# GETTING A SIMPLE HANDLE ON ARTICULATION

One clinician explains why Bite-Chek represents the high point of Microcopy's commitment to developing easy-to-use products that simplify dentistry.

[ By Hugh Flax, DDS, AAACD, MICOI ]

Information provided by Microcopy.

Occlusal management is a foundational pillar of dental care excellence. The stability of natural oral structures (pulpal tissues, periodontal margins and enamel integrity) and implants (bone loading effects on density) are greatly impacted by force vectors and intensity on teeth.

Because occlusal conditions can be fluid and change due to natural conditions or trauma at any time, dental professionals must be able to efficiently gather data, diagnose and fine-tune bite changes to teeth, restorative materials and bite appliances. When practices are already dealing with the challenges of time management and overhead costs, reaching into drawers for instrumentation and materials like bite forceps and articulating paper presents an interruption in the flow of the

appointment and infection control protocols.

Fortunately, there are innovative companies in dentistry like Microcopy, a Kennesaw, Ga.-based firm (just north of Atlanta) that has a long history of creating streamlined simplifications that have benefitted dental practices (including my own) for many years. A new product called Bite-Chek has been designed and manufactured at Microcopy's state-of-the-art production facility. It represents the high point of Microcopy's commitment to developing easy-to-use products that simplify dentistry.

What makes Bite-Chek unique is a user-friendly product design (Fig. 1) of an easy-grip disposable handle (acting as articulating forceps) that is conveniently pre-attached to bite

film that keeps the film from curling and removes the risk of patients biting down on metal. Furthermore, because no forceps are required for placement due to the easy-grip handle, there is no marking on gloves or surrounding equipment.

## Added bonus

Adding more value, this product can easily be used without having to retrieve other instruments. Our assistants and hygienist love the forceps-free convenience and handiness, which gives them one less step to worry about during the patient exam.

For many years, we have maintained a high standard for occlusal management so our patients become "connoisseurs" of their bite. That awareness has allowed our patients

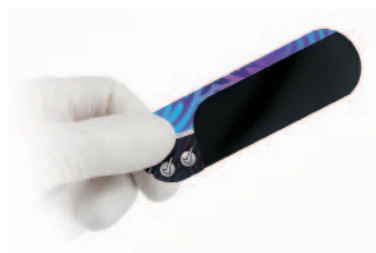
to give us feedback when they experience changes in their dental comfort. In our busy practice, during routine continuing care or an unplanned dental emergency, the new Bite-Chek articulation film simplifies occlusal adjustments, accurately marking points of contact and minimizing the effects of "too high" an occlusion that cause tooth sensitivity or mobility. We also use Bite-Chek to effortlessly monitor the effectiveness of bite guard therapy (Fig. 2).

In this age of high technology, it is gratifying to see a low tech solution to a common problem as described above. Looks like Microcopy has developed a winner for our practice and profession!

For more information, go to [microcopydental.com/bite-chek](http://microcopydental.com/bite-chek). ●

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Flax practices full-time in Atlanta, Ga., focusing on functional appearance-related conditions and advanced laser dentistry, as well as writing and lecturing on how to help others do the same for their own practices. He has also appeared on FOX News demonstrating the miraculous benefits of laser dentistry and been featured in many women's magazines, such as Cosmo, Allure and Good Housekeeping, as well as The Wall Street Journal, Dear Doctor, and Productive Dentist Magazine (cover story), The Atlanta Business Chronicle, Jezebel, Atlanta Magazine, In Style and New Beauty magazine.



▲ **Fig. 1** Bite-Chek has an easy-grip handle, eliminating the need for forceps. The handle keeps gloves clean, and, because it holds the film flat, the paper does not curl.



▲ **Fig. 2** Regular monitoring of occlusal appliances helps avoid alteration of tooth/restorative anatomy and keep muscles relaxed. This is made more convenient using Bite-Chek. Very simply: Dry the opposing surface, position the film on the teeth facing the center of the mouth and mark the occlusion.



## Bite-Chek

Bite-Chek articulation film boasts an innovative "easy-grip" handle to simplify occlusal adjustments without the need for forceps. Its thin film is the ideal tool to accurately mark the points of contact, minimizing the possibility of "too high" an occlusion, which can account for post-operative tooth sensitivity.

## Microcopy

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