### Preparation and Finishing Kits

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<td>Composite Finish and Polish Kit</td>
<td>Brasseler</td>
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<td>7b.</td>
<td>Enhance Composite Finishing and Polishing System</td>
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<td>Composite Finishing Preparation Kit</td>
<td>Bisco</td>
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<td>8b.</td>
<td>R.A.P.T.O.R. Resin Sculpting Set</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>Brasseler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Product</td>
<td>Cost/Instrument</td>
<td>Intended Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esthetic Inlay/Onlay</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Prepare &amp; Finish Inlays &amp; Onlays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STS Diamonds</td>
<td>$11.16</td>
<td>Prepare Indirect Procedures when Patient has Limited Opening Capabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laminate Veneer System</td>
<td>$14.29</td>
<td>Prepare &amp; Finish Veneers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acrylic Adjustment Polishing Set</td>
<td>$12.49</td>
<td>Adjust and polish acrylic appliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite and Acrylic Provisional Adjustment/Polishing Kit</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Adjust and polish provisional restorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inlay/Onlay Preparation Kit</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Prepare &amp; Finish inlays and onlays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Prep</td>
<td>$13.65</td>
<td>Prepare Minimally Invasive Cavities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration Removal Kit</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Remove composite, amalgam, porcelain, and cast metal restorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Finisher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Finish and polish composite and porcelain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acrylic Temporization Kit</td>
<td>$12.33</td>
<td>Contour &amp; Polish Provisionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixon Inlay/Onlay II</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Prepare &amp; Finish Inlays &amp; Onlays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK &amp; UM Cutters</td>
<td>$26.72</td>
<td>Adjust and smooth metal porcelain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultra Denture Adjustment and Polishing Kit</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>Adjust and polish acrylic appliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixon Porcelain Veneer II</td>
<td>$10.30</td>
<td>Prepare &amp; Finish Veneers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Even though you can put together groups of instruments and materials yourself, buying a kit for a specific purpose can sometimes simplify the process and save you time. On the other hand, you can go overboard and have a drawer full of kits with many duplicate instruments and/or materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Cost/ Instrument</th>
<th>Intended Function</th>
<th>Number of Instruments</th>
<th>Type of Instruments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Solution Crown and Bridge Design System</td>
<td>$11.90</td>
<td>Prepare and finish ceramic crowns</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cutting diamonds, rubber polishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasseler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite Finish and Polish Kit</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Finish and polish composite restorations</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Polishing brushes, rubber polishers, finishing burs, finishing strips, finishing discs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasseler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance Composite Finishing and Polishing System</td>
<td>$1.82</td>
<td>Contour &amp; Polish Composite Restorations</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Rubber Polishing Paste and Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentsply/Caulk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inlay/Onlay Kit KG Sorensen</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Prepare and finish inlays and onlays</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cutting diamonds, finishing diamond, finishing bur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcelain Veneer Kit Shofu</td>
<td>$4.62</td>
<td>Prepare, Finish, &amp; Polish Veneers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cutting &amp; Finishing Diamonds, White Stones, Rubber Polishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite Finishing Preparation Kit</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td>Contour composite restorations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Finishing burs and diamonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisco</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.A.P.T.O.R. Resin Sculpturing Set</td>
<td>$12.21</td>
<td>Contour and Polish Posterior Composites</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cutting &amp; Finishing Diamonds and Burs, Rubber Polishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veneer Preparation Kit Bisco</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Prepare and finish porcelain veneers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cutting and finishing diamonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posterior Composite Sculpturing</td>
<td>$12.17</td>
<td>Contour Posterior Composites</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Finishing Burs &amp; Diamonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasseler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Designed by Editorial Team Member Dr. Ronald Jackson, this kit includes four preparation diamonds, one end-cutting diamond for finishing the gingival wall of a proximal box, and a long finishing bur to smooth the preparation. There are also two finishing burs and one finishing diamond for adjusting the occlusion after bonding the restoration.

**Packaging**
Sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Drawings of instruments help when reassembling for autoclaving and numbers help with reordering. There is also room for extra burs, so you can customize it if you choose.

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### Esthetic Inlay/Onlay

**Brasseler**

(4.6) [www.brasselerusa.com](http://www.brasselerusa.com)

**Cost:** $89.99/9 ($10.00/instrument)

**Includes:**
- 4 preparation diamonds
- 1 end-cutting diamond
- 3 finishing burs
- 1 finishing diamond
- 1 autoclavable burblock

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### RAVES & RANTS

- All you need for inlays and onlays
- Burblock separates prep from finishing
- Add a few extra diamonds and it could also be for anterior
- Burblock should be smaller

---

**Description**

Designed by Editorial Team Member Dr. Ronald Jackson, this kit includes four preparation diamonds, one end-cutting diamond for finishing the gingival wall of a proximal box, and a long finishing bur to smooth the preparation. There are also two finishing burs and one finishing diamond for adjusting the occlusion after bonding the restoration.

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### STS Diamonds

**Brasseler**

(4.5)

**Cost:** $133.90/12 ($11.16 ea)

**Kit includes:**
- 4 coarse diamonds
- 4 medium diamonds
- 4 fine diamonds
- 1 autoclavable burblock

---

**Description**

Shorter than short (STS) diamonds for preparing crowns in patients with limited opening. Instead of the more normal 21mm in length diamonds from Brasseler, these are about 16.5mm (flat-
end cylinder). Kit includes three different grits, with the coarse having a black band, medium having no band, and fine having a red band. Shapes are flat-end cylinder, rounded-end cylinder, football, and flame.

**Packaging**
Sterilizable red anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover and drawings of the instruments allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. However, it would be even more helpful to have identified the grits by color and coarseness. The instruments, due to their shortness, sit too low in the burblock than normal size burs. This makes retrieving them more difficult.

---

### STS Diamonds

STS Diamonds make up this one-of-a-kind kit that definitely simplifies preparing teeth in a patient with limited opening. Just about all the instruments were used by our evaluators, but larger selection would also be appreciated. Burblock is good, but could be improved by better labeling and having the diamonds sit higher for better access.

### Laminate Veneer System

![Laminate Veneer System](image)

Cost: **$114.30/8 ($14.29/instrument)**

Includes:
- 4 preparation diamonds
- 1 finishing carbide bur
- 3 finishing diamonds
- 1 autoclavable burblock

**Description**
Features 0.3mm and 0.5mm, three-ringed, depth-limiting and two long tapered, two-grit diamonds that come in two widths. The tips of these instruments contain fine diamond particles for defining and refining the margins while the coarse diamond particles on the remainder of the cutting surface reduce the enamel to the depth established by the depth-limiting diamond. Also includes three finishing ET/OS diamonds and one 30-fluted ET carbide.

**Packaging**
Sterilizable red anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover. Has drawings, numbers, and description of the instruments to allow you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize, as well as reorder with accuracy.

---

**RAVES & RANTS**

- Fast, depth-limiting diamonds
- Two-grit tapered diamond works well
- Can’t have multiple depths with depth-limiting diamonds
- 30-fluted bur has limited use

**REALITY**

The Laminate Veneer System is a very complete kit for preparing and finishing veneers. However, we prefer the depth-limiting diamonds in the Nixon Kit II as they give you the option of using one depth for the incisal 2/3 and another depth for the cervical 1/3. We also do not believe the 30-fluted bur is of much value.
**Acrylic Adjustment Polishing Set**

**Description**
Kit for adjusting and polishing dentures or any acrylic appliance. Instruments fit into a straight handpiece and are autoclavable, Chemiclavable, and dry heat sterilizable. There are two acrylic burs, one bullet and one pear shape. The actual polishers come in two sizes: large, blunt-ended and bullet-shaped and medium pointed bullets impregnated with silicon carbide abrasive in three grits: coarse (green), medium (black), and fine (yellow).

**Packaging**
Autoclavable anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Rubber instruments are identified only by number, but not grit or color.

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Large and small points
- More aseptic than pumice and high shine
- Pumice on lathe still faster for polishing major adjustments
- Pumice is much less expensive

**REALITY**

The **Acrylic Adjustment Polishing Set** is very similar to the Ultra Denture Adjustment & Polishing Kit, also featured in this section. As a matter of fact, the large polishers appear to be identical to those that were in the Brasseler kit several years ago. We did an apples-to-apples comparison by roughening and then refinishing one side of a denture flange with the Ultra Denture Adjustment & Polishing Kit and one side with this kit. The results showed the Acrylic Adjustment Polishing Set was somewhat more effective than the Ultra Denture Adjustment & Polishing Kit. We found the larger bur in the Acrylic Adjustment Kit was more effective in pre-smoothing the acrylic compared to the large bur in the Ultra Denture Adjustment & Polishing Kit. Neither kit was able to re-establish a very high shine that can be accomplished on a lathe. Note: the polishers in this kit begin to rotate eccentrically in speeds over 17,000-20,000RPM. This kit also has the smaller points for finishing areas too small for the large points.

**Cost:** $99.95/8 ($12.49/instrument)

**Includes:**
- 2 acrylic adjusting burs
- 2 polishing points (coarse)
- 2 polishing points (medium)
- 2 polishing points (fine)
- 1 autoclavable burblock

**The Ratings**

Axis (4.3)
Description
Complete system of acrylic/composite burs and polishers for finishing provisional restorations. Four burs are thin versions of conventional acrylic cutters, while the other two are HP versions of ET burs. The diamond discs include two large diameter, one of which has a serrated edge, while the third is a Visionflex that mounts on a pop-on type of HP mandrel. The rubber instruments include the same discs that are in the Acrylic Temporization Kit plus mounted small bullet points in the same three grits. The polishers include two brushes similar to those evaluated in the Polishing Instrument section under Polishing Brushes, except these are wheels on a HP mandrel. The other six include pairs of goat hair, ragwheel, and felt. The diamond paste is Truluster.

Packaging
Conventional translucent plastic box with rear-hinged top that snaps closed in the front. Partitions keep the contents reasonably organized.

Other than sandpaper discs, the Composite and Acrylic Provisional Adjustment/Polishing Kit gives you virtually all the instruments you would ever need to contour and polish any provisional restoration. The carbide burs were particularly praised by our evaluators for their cutting efficiency (one evaluator needed a high-speed diamond for bulk reduction) and the diamond discs are especially helpful with refining bridge embrasures. However the disc with the serrated edge needs to be used with great caution, as it can jump and lacerate your finger. As far as the polishing wheels and diamond is concerned, these will either get plenty of use or none at all, depending on whether you use a resin glaze on your provisional on a routine basis. If you do, then about half of this kit would go to waste. And, while the plastic box is fine for shipping, it’s a disaster for routine use. This kit is just begging for a countertop burblock, which would make the instruments much more convenient and accessible. In addition, the cloth-type polishers are difficult to clean and disinfect.
Inlay/Onlay Preparation Kit
Bisco

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Almost perfect variety of instruments
- Single file burblock makes grabbing burs easy
- Smoother grit finishing diamond would make it hard to beat
- Phone number on kit is not toll-free

**Description**
Kit specified for inlays and onlays. The preparation diamonds are primarily short and obviously meant for inlays and onlays. The finishing diamonds and one finishing bur are small football size, perfect for adjusting the occlusion on these restorations.

**Packaging**
Sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged cover and has drawings of the instruments, which allow you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize.

REALITY

Inlay/Onlay Preparation Kit is much closer to the kits from Brasseler in form and price than it is to the kit from KG Sorensen. This means the kit has a variety of short, rather thick burs that definitely are valuable when preparing a tooth for an inlay or onlay. In addition, the end-cutting diamond is always a help in smoothing gingival walls of proximal boxes and the occlusal adjustment diamonds and carbide are just the right size and shape. The diamonds are high quality, cut cleanly, and concentrically. And the aluminum burblock is longer and thin, with the instruments arranged in one line that makes it easier to retrieve the diamonds. However, the small football shapes are really for adjusting the occlusion when seating the restoration, while the name of the kit seems to indicate it is for preparation only. And a finer grit finishing diamond would help make this kit hard to beat.

Micro Prep
Brasseler

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Encourages conservative preps
- Shapes should handle all needs
- Expensive
- Any thin diamond or bur will also work

**Description**
Designed by Dr. Buddy Mopper, this is a set of very small diamonds for minimally invasive preparations. Shapes of some of the
Diamonds are very unusual including a tear-drop. Other shapes are narrow flame, rounded-end cylinder, spherical, ball, and conical.

**Packaging**
Sterilizable red anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Drawings of instruments help when reassembling for autoclaving and numbers help with reordering. There are also descriptions of the intended use of each instrument directly printed on the burblock.

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**Description**
Compilation of specific highspeed diamonds and carbides for cutting through porcelain, composite, cast metal, and amalgam. The crown remover is double-ended and has angled ends for accessing slots prepared in crowns to break the cement seal.

**Packaging**
Clear plastic box with individual compartments designed to hold the burs, burblock, and crown remover. Burs are in standard 5-bur pack plastic cases. You need to load the burblock yourself with the burs you want. The burblock is nicely imprinted with the intended materials through which the respective burs would cut and has outlines of their shapes for easier assembly and reordering.

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**REALITY**
If you have embraced this approach to restorative dentistry (it’s a positive trend), then *Micro Prep* will come in very handy.

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**Restoration Removal Kit**
Brasseler

**Cost:** $400.40

**Includes:**
- 5801-016 porcelain removal (5)
- 5835-012 porcelain removal (5)
- H34-010 metal cutters (5)
- H34-012 metal cutters (5)
- H34L-012 metal cutters (5)
- S985-012 composite removal (5)
- 5 6813-014 amalgam removal
- 5 6813-016 amalgam removal
- 5 H32-012 amalgam removal
- 250 EB134 crown removal instrument (1)
- 1 autoclavable burblock

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**RAVES & RANTS**
- Keeps similar purpose burs together
- Metal and porcelain cutters save regular instruments
- Can any coarse diamond not work as well?
- Convenience comes at a hefty price

---

**REALITY**
Specific burs to cut through specific material are nothing new. Putting them into a comprehensive kit called the *Restoration Removal Kit* would seem to be helpful, but at the retail price, it’s awfully steep. Nevertheless, it is certainly efficient to have all the instruments you would typically use to remove restorations in one place. We can’t quibble very much with the burs matched to porcelain and metal, but do we really need specific burs for removing amalgam and composite? In addition, one evaluator thought the crown remover was not heavy duty enough.

Note: Two of our three kits did not have the porcelain removal diamond S985-012. Instead, it had five additional S985-012, which are the composite removal diamonds. We advise closely checking any kit that you order to make sure you receive the correct instruments.
Description
As the name implies, this kit has it all. It contains just about every conceivable finishing and polishing instrument and product except for burs and diamonds, including FlexiDiscs, FlexiBuffs, FlexiPoints, FlexiCups, FlexiWheels, FlexiDiamond Strips, Enamelize, Porcelize, unmounted wheels for polishing porcelain, and Felt FlexiPoints.

Packaging
Large white plastic tray with numerous receptacles of specific sizes for the specific products. Covering this tray is a clear plastic cover with the description of each receptacle printed directly above it. However, when the cover is removed, there go the descriptions. This lack of identification is not really a problem when it comes to the larger items such as Enamelize and Porcelize, but could be with the FlexiDiscs. It would have been better to print directly on the divisions of the receptacles.

Due to all the loose discs in this kit, you better hope the person retrieving it from the cabinet doesn’t trip or you’ll have a pile of mixed up discs on your hands. The white plastic tray was a bit too flexible — a stiffer tray would be appreciated.

Directions
An eight-page color fold-out guide. The best polishing guide from any manufacturer.

REALITY
Although the Top Finisher System is a large kit and takes up a lot of countertop space, it gives you just about everything you will ever need to finish and polish composite and porcelain restorations all in one box, although adding D•Fine and Revitalizer would make it even more complete. It is well-organized and contains most of the excellent finishing and polishing products for which Cosmedent is famous. Kit would also be an excellent addition to the hygienist’s armamentarium.
Description
Designed for contouring and polishing acrylic provisionals, three different grits of silicone rubber knife-edged discs impregnated with silicon carbide abrasive, which are mounted on the straight mandrels, are included in the kit. Green is coarse, black is medium, yellow is fine. In addition, there are the two different EF cutters, which are straight handpiece carbide burs specifically designed to cut acrylic, plus a serrated-edged diamond disc.

Packaging
Sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. It would be helpful to have drawings of EF Cutters and diamond disc for reassembly, although they are identified by their numbers. Rubber wheels are already identified by color and grit, which helps with instrument selection.

REALITY
The Acrylic Temporization Kit is for the finishing and polishing of acrylic provisionals without leaving the treatment room, which is especially important when more stringent laboratory asepsis requirements are taken into consideration. Before this kit, to properly polish an acrylic provisional, you needed to remove your soiled gloves, disinfect the provisional, go to the lab, polish it with a sterile rag wheel using pumice mixed with a disinfectant followed by some type of acrylic high shine polish, and then return to the treatment room followed by regloving. That is, of course, if you were adhering to universal infection control procedures. With this kit, the nuisance of laboratory polishing is largely eliminated.

All the individual instruments perform their assigned tasks reasonably well. If you are accustomed to trimming a provisional with a sandpaper disc, you may or may not want to switch to the EF cutters, based on personal preference. The diamond disc is useful for establishing initial embrasure form when contouring bridges and splinted units, but is too stiff for definitive shaping in this delicate area. A more flexible sandpaper, aluminum oxide, or VisionFlex disc is more indicated for this task.

The rubber polishing discs are very effective, with their knife-edged shape allowing access to all but the most restricted gingival embrasure areas of splinted units. A fine-tipped point shape would be a welcome addition to permit occlusal surface polishing. Their only apparent deficiencies seem to be the residue they leave on the provisional and the fact that the coarse and medium discs wear down rather quickly. The residue, however, is easily cleaned off with soap and water. In addition, when the three different grits of rubber wheels are all mounted on mandrels and placed in the burblock along with the diamond disc and EF cutters, it became somewhat difficult to remove individual instruments.

Nevertheless, the polish achieved with these instruments is quite acceptable for all but the most demanding of clinical situations (pumice followed by acrylic high shine is still necessary in these instances) and should only require about two minutes per unit to perform. Can also be used to polish composite provisionals, but you will not be able to achieve a high shine on these products with this kit.
5b

**Nixon Inlay & Onlay II**
Brasseler

**RASSES & RANTS**

- Very compact
- Good instrument selection
- No drawings on burblock for reassembly
- No finishing diamonds for occlusal surface

**REALITY**

Almost the identical kit to Esthetic Inlay/Onlay, except for three instruments. The Nixon Inlay/Onlay II has just about everything you need for these restorations, but it still lacks finishing diamonds for porcelain and a burblock with instrument drawings.

**Description**

Designed by Dr. Robert Nixon, contains diamonds and burs for both preparation and finishing inlays and onlays. Included are four preparation diamonds, one tissue protective end-cutting diamond, two 12-fluted burs, and one fine diamond.

**Packaging**

Small sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kits, and then sterilize. Does not include drawings of instruments to help with reassembly, but does have numbers for reordering.

---

5c

**UK & UM Cutters**
Brasseler

**RASSES & RANTS**

- Bullet worked well on all materials
- Very organized kit
- Tapered versions are too thin to be effective
- Tends to chatter more on porcelain compared to highspeed diamond

**REALITY**

Contouring kit featuring straight handpiece tungsten carbide cutters (burs) with staggered toothing and additional cross-cuts to presumably provide high material reduction and smooth surfaces with only one cutter. Completely new blade geometry supposedly allows them to cut more efficiently. The UM Cutters are universal metal cutters distinguished by a red ring and a golden shank. Using a high contact pressure, the UM cutters shape and rework precious and non-precious metals as used in substructures of crowns and bridges and cast metal partial denture frameworks. By using low contact pressure, the UM cutter should be able to smooth and finish metal castings.

UK cutters, which feature the same golden shank as the UM but are marked with a white ring, are fabricated to contour and finish ceramics and materials for provisional restorations.

**Packaging**

Sterilizable anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Drawings of instruments help when reassembling for autoclaving and numbers help with reordering. It also tells you which instruments are for metal and which are for ceramics and resins. In addition, there is room for extra burs, so you can customize it if you choose.
There were differences in ease of use and efficacy of these burs depending on the materials being cut. The **UK Cutters** worked quite well on acrylic and composite resin provisional restorations, cutting smoothly and effectively, but creating a messy powder because of the fineness of the cut, and tending to clog with debris too readily. They also cut on porcelain quite well, cutting smoothly and effectively, but heating up a bit too readily. One evaluator felt the UK cutters had more chatter on porcelain compared to a highspeed diamond. The **UM Cutters** worked excellently on both semi-precious and precious metal copings, not quite as effectively and heating up too readily on non-precious metal copings, excellently on aluminum implant temporary cylinders, and quite effectively but with a tendency to “grab” the metal on trimming copper plated dies.

Of the shapes, the bullets in both systems (139) cut better than the thinner ones (138), which tended to gouge the material. The largest bur, H79UM for the metal, is mainly for larger restorations such as partial dentures.

---

**Description**

Kit for adjusting and polishing dentures or any acrylic appliance. Instruments fit into a straight handpiece and are autoclavable, but cannot be Chemiclaved. There are two E-Cutters, which are carbide burs designed for adjusting acrylic. These come in a bullet and pear shape. The bullet (251EF-060) has a typical size head for these types of burs, but is unique due to its fine blades. The pear-shaped (H77E-040) has a small head, designed to access restricted areas. The actual polishers are large, bullet-shaped silicone rubber points impregnated with silicon carbide abrasive in three grits: coarse (dark pink), medium (light pink), and fine (yellow).

---

**Packaging**

Autoclavable anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Rubber instruments are identified by color and grit, which is very helpful for reassembly and for use, just in case you forget the order in which they are to be used.
The Ultra Denture Adjustment & Polishing Kit is very similar to the Acrylic Adjustment Polishing Set, also featured in this section. It is used to adjust and polish any acrylic appliance (dentures, orthodontic retainers, TMJ splints, etc.) in the treatment room.

The acrylic adjusting burs function just like all others, but, perhaps, with more efficiency. Even though it is capable of removing moderate amounts of acrylic (when adjusting a denture, for example), the fine blade design of the 251EF leaves the acrylic relatively smooth and ready for polishing. The 77E has a pear-shaped head, which is able to get into areas more conventional shaped burs cannot.

The rubber polishing points actually perform their appointed tasks reasonably well. The pink-colored points do not wear out as quickly as the original green and black, but our tests revealed the performance has not been improved and may even be slightly worse, in that they still did not remove the striations from the E-Cutters very effectively. The polish they impart approaches but does not quite equal that of pumice and acrylic hi-shine on ragwheels used with a lab lathe. And, if you are making gross adjustments and need to smooth and polish large areas, lathe polishing will probably still be faster.

Overall, even though this kit has several minor drawbacks, it should be a valuable addition to your armamentarium, assuming you provide services in which acrylic appliances are involved.

---

The Nixon Porcelain Veneer II is a well-designed kit that gives you maximum control over your veneer preparations since you can use one depth cutter in the incisal two-thirds of the tooth and another one in the cervical area. We would replace the 30-fluted burs with Dialite finishing and polishing cups.

---

**Description**

Designed by Dr. Robert Nixon, this kit is meant specifically for porcelain veneers and is an updated version of the original kit. For preparing teeth, there are four diamonds plus three, single-ringed, depth cutters in 0.3mm, 0.5mm, and 0.7mm. For finishing, there are four diamonds plus two 30-fluted burs.

**Packaging**

Sterilizable red anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. There are no illustrations of the instruments, however, to help you reassemble the kit properly, although the depth cutters are well marked.

---

**RAVES & RANTS**

- Good depth-cutters
- Three cutting diamonds are versatile
- Forget the 30-fluted burs
- Can it be used for resin veneers?

**Cost:** $133.90/13 ($10.30/instrument)
**Includes:**
- 4 preparation diamonds
- 3 depth-cutting diamonds
- 4 finishing diamonds
- 2 finishing burs
- 1 autoclavable burblock

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**REALITY**

The *Nixon Porcelain Veneer II* is a well-designed kit that gives you maximum control over your veneer preparations since you can use one depth cutter in the incisal two-thirds of the tooth and another one in the cervical area. We would replace the 30-fluted burs with Dialite finishing and polishing cups.

---

**REALITY**

The *Nixon Porcelain Veneer II* is a well-designed kit that gives you maximum control over your veneer preparations since you can use one depth cutter in the incisal two-thirds of the tooth and another one in the cervical area. We would replace the 30-fluted burs with Dialite finishing and polishing cups.
### The Solution Crown & Bridge Design System

**Cost:** $250.00/21 ($11.90/instrument)

**Includes:**
- 1 Modified Chamfer Preparation Kit (4 diamonds)
- 1 Chamfer Preparation Kit (4 diamonds)
- 1 Modified Shoulder Preparation Kit (4 diamonds)
- 1 Intra-Oral Dialite Porcelain Adjustment Polishing Kit (9 polishers)
- 4 autoclavable burblocks

### Packaging
Clear plastic sturdy tackle box with extra spaces for extra storage holds the sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblocks with rear-hinged covers. Each has drawings of the instruments, which allow you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize.

### Description
Contains three different kits for preparing crowns with different margin designs. Each kit features two primary diamonds, a long thin diamond for breaking contact, and a football diamond for occlusal reduction. The polishing kit is evaluated in the Polishing Instruments section of this edition.

### REALITY
If you are confused about what kind of diamond to use for specific types of preparations, The Solution Crown and Bridge Design System is for you. While some of instruments are duplicated, it definitely takes some of the guesswork out of preparing crowns. The burblocks even tell you which instruments are designed for breaking contact, reducing the occlusal and lingual, performing bulk axial reduction, and refining the preparation. However, depth-limiting diamonds are missing and the simplified approach may just be too simplistic to be of value for an experienced dentist. And the plastic tackle box is a nuisance, since its lid has to be opened every time you fetch a kit. On the other hand, the diamonds themselves are of typical high Brasseler quality.

### Composite Finish and Polish Kit

**Cost:** $259.95

**Includes:**
- 3 ComposiPro Brushes
- 3 ComposiPro OneStep Polishers
- 12 ET burs
- 6 Visionflex diamond strips
- 40 EP finishing discs and one mandrel
- 1 autoclavable burblock

### RAVES & RANTS
- Finishing and polishing tapas-like
- Let’s you sample numerous products
- Repackaging at its best
- At least you can use the box afterwards
Preparation and Finishing Kits

Description
Basically a smorgasbord of a number of Brasseler’s various composite finishers and polishers. Evaluations of all these items can be found elsewhere in this edition.

Packaging
Conventional translucent plastic box with rear-hinged top that snaps closed in the front. Partitions keep the contents reasonably organized.

REALITY
Brasseler is the master in taking its products and repackaging them in a numbing variety of options. The Composite Finish and Polish Kit is a perfect example of this concept. If you just want to get a feel of the individual components without buying each individual product, then this kit will serve your needs. Otherwise, we suggest reading the evaluations in all the categories represented by this kit and choosing the best products a la carte.

Enhance Composite Finishing & Polishing System

Cost: $109.25

Kit includes:
• 20 finishing discs
• 10 finishing points
• 10 finishing cups
• 25 polishing cups with one metal mandrel
• 1 syringe of Prisma-Gloss (4g)
• 1 syringe of Prisma-Gloss Extra Fine (4g)

Refills
Discs, Cups, or Points
Cost: $72.80 for 40 ($1.82 ea)

100 Polishing Cups
Cost: $37.60 ($0.38 ea)

3 Mandrels
Cost: $9.00 ($3.00 ea)

Shapes
Three disc, cup, and point.
Disc Most versatile shape. The disc can be used on its front and back surfaces as well as its edge. It is applicable for a multitude of tasks including smoothing and adding anatomy to composites, smoothing the margins of provisional acrylic inlays and onlays intraorally without any apparent damage to the margins of the preparation, and removing stain from enamel and restorations during recall visits. It is especially proficient at contouring and smoothing the lingual surfaces of anterior restorations and removing excess resin cement from the margins of bonded porcelain restorations and residual cement when debonding orthodontic appliances.
Cups Perfect size for finishing the gingival margins of a wide variety of restorations including Class V composites and all types of

RAVES & RANTS

Most versatile rubber-like finisher
Good flexibility
Wear out quickly
Point is much too large

Description
Made from a soft, white, flexible, rubber-like material which is actually a proprietary light-cured resin impregnated with an abrasive. Each polisher is fused to a plastic latch-type mandrel.

Grits
One, for finishing.
veneers (although it will not remove porcelain overhangs). In addition, the cups can be used on cuspal inclines and embrasures.

**Points**  Rather large and are the least useful of the three shapes. We would like to see a smaller version.

**Packaging**
Complete kit, which includes Prisma-Gloss, Prisma-Gloss Extra Fine, and polishing cups, comes in a cardboard box with a white plastic insert tray securing the contents. The actual Enhance instruments are in a plastic burblock-like device, which keeps the instruments separate, but somewhat difficult to retrieve. All three shapes can be sterilized in an autoclave, but are really designed to be disposable.

**Directions**
Plain paper, 10 languages, annoying foldout design. Information is easy to follow, but the black and white clinical photos are poor quality and not much value.

---

**REALITY**

Enhance is a one-of-a-kind product. It is really the only rubber instrument available for composite that can take a roughened surface (after being adjusted by a finishing bur or disc) and create a smooth one. It is quite versatile and is especially effective on the concave lingual surfaces of anterior teeth. Be sure not to get Enhance wet — it will lose its effectiveness very quickly. But Enhance will only get you part of the way, so you also need one of the rubber polishing kits to impart a shine on the restoration unless you use the enclosed Prisma-Gloss polishing paste.

---

**Inlay/Onlay Kit**

*KG Sorensen*

Cost: $49.95/10 ($5.00/instrument)

Includes:
- 6 preparation diamonds
- 3 finishing diamonds
- 1 finishing bur
- 1 autoclavable burblock

**RAVES & RANTS**

+ Best buy—very inexpensive
+ Could also be used for crowns
- 30-fluted carbide is not useful
- Needs better finishing diamonds for occlusal

**REALITY**

At $5.00/instrument (including the burblock), the Inlay/Onlay Kit is a real bargain. The diamonds, which range from short to long, could easily be used for crowns as well as inlays and onlays. Even though this kit includes finishing diamonds, their coarseness is better oriented for margins of your preparation, but additional, finer grit diamonds are needed for finishing the occlusal surfaces of inlays and onlays. The ET9-like 30-fluted bur is out of place in this kit and not useful at all.
**Description**

Designed specifically for porcelain veneers. For preparing teeth, there are three medium-grit diamonds (125µ). For finishing, there are also three diamonds (74µ) plus two Dura-White stones and eight Ceramisté polishers.

**Packaging**

White plastic burblock with rear-hinged clear plastic cover. Drawings of instruments help when reassembling for autoclaving and numbers help with reordering. There are also descriptions of the intended use of each instrument directly printed on the burblock.

---

**RAVES & RANTS**

- Directions right on burblock
- Three cutting diamonds are versatile
- No depth-cutters
- Ceramiste good for smoothing, not polishing

**REALITY**

The Porcelain Veneer Kit is a well-designed kit, but lacks depth cutters. The Dura-White stones are also not very useful. While the Ceramiste instruments work well for smoothing chores, their silicon carbide abrasive is not capable of creating a glaze-like shine on porcelain.

---

**Description**

Kit for contouring composite restorations that includes various shapes and flutes of finishing burs for composites. Included are three long, ET9-like burs, 2 medium length ET6-like burs, 2 large football, OS1-like burs, a long, parallel-sided bur with a rounded end, and two needle-like diamonds.

**Packaging**

Sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. There are illustrations of the instruments to help you reassemble the kit properly.

---

**RAVES & RANTS**

- Brasseler incognito
- Aluminum burblock with drawings
- Limited selection
- Telephone number on kit is not toll-free

**REALITY**

Composite Finishing Preparation Kit is a Bisco version of a Brasseler kit, with ET and OS burs and a few other instruments thrown in. While all the instruments are fine, the selection is quite limited. In addition, the name of the kit strikes us as strange and the telephone number on the kit is not toll-free.
Description
Posterior composite finishing kit that features three R.A.P.T.O.R. (Rapid Adapting Precision Transformer for Occlusal Resins) finishing diamonds, shaped to duplicate an acorn burnisher. The finishing burs are 30-fluted and come in three shapes: Christmas tree, egg, and needle. The extra diamond is also a small, thin needle. There are also two rubber finishing points.

Use
Contour your posterior composite as much as possible with hand instruments prior to curing. The less rotary finishing, the better. Select the appropriately sized R.A.P.T.O.R. diamond and rough out the occlusal anatomy, staying away from the enamel margins. The acorn shape of the diamonds will create the proper pits, grooves, fossae, and cuspal inclines just about automatically. You can also use the pointed tip to countersink anatomically correct pits in the occlusal surface and then use the same instrument to connect the "dots”.

Packaging
Plastic box containing black anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged cover that makes autoclaving the kit very easy. The numbers of the various burs are imprinted on the burblock, but there are no outlines of the instruments to assist with reassembly.

Directions
Coated paper booklet, three pages, has helpful color illustrations. Information is clear and easy to understand.
**Veneer Preparation Kit**

**Bisco**

*NEW*

**RAVES & RANTS**

+ Depth-cutters allow different depths for incisals and cervicals
+ Instruments easy to retrieve from burblock
+ Instrument selection not as optimal as other kits
+ Why finishing diamonds if it’s just for preps

**Description**

Kit is meant specifically for porcelain veneers. For preparing teeth, there are two primary long diamonds plus two, single-ringed, depth cutters in 0.5mm and 0.7mm. For finishing, there are three diamonds.

**Packaging**

Sterilizable blue anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. There are illustrations of the instruments to help you reassemble the kit properly.

**REALITY**

The Veneer Preparation Kit was well received by most evaluators, but several thought the instrument selection paled in comparison to kits from Brasseler. Nevertheless, the depth cutters are similar to those in the Nixon II kit, in that you can use one depth in the incisal two-thirds of the tooth and another one in the cervical area. The linear style burblock makes retrieving instruments easy and the diamonds are of high quality, with minimal clogging and concentricity. However, the depth cutters starts at 0.5mm, which can lead to overpreparation compared to the 0.3mm depth cutters in other kits.

**R.A.P.T.O.R.**

**Bisco**

**RAVES & RANTS**

+ Cutting on face-only is more protective
+ Pointed profile gives good anatomy
+ Only necessary if you overbuild
+ Can scar enamel if not careful

**Description**

Original R.A.P.T.O.R. (Rapid Adapting Precision Transformer for Occlusal Resins) kit for finishing posterior composites. Unique instruments are the two R.A.P.T.O.R. finishing diamonds, which are shaped to duplicate an acorn burnisher. Available a la carte is a very small size called Lil’ R.A.P.T.O.R. The shank for these diamonds can be reduced in length to accommodate patients with limited ability to open their mouths wide for access. The finishing burs are 30-fluted and come in three shapes: Christmas tree, egg, and needle. The extra diamond is also a small, thin needle. The mandrel fits Bisco’s finishing discs.
Use
Contour your posterior composite as much as possible with hand instruments prior to curing. The less rotary finishing, the better. Select the appropriately sized R.A.P.T.O.R. diamond and rough out the occlusal anatomy, staying away from the enamel margins. The acorn shape of the diamonds will create the proper pits, grooves, fossae, and cuspal inclines just about automatically. You can also use the pointed tip to countersink anatomically correct pits in the occlusal surface and then use the same instrument to connect the "dots".

Packaging
Anodized matte silver aluminum burblock with rear-hinged cover that makes autoclaving the kit very easy. The numbers of the various burs are imprinted on the burblock as is Bisco's toll-free number to expedite reordering, but there are no outlines of the instruments to assist with reassembly.

Directions
Plain paper foldout with reasonably helpful line drawings and illustrations. Information is clear and easy to understand.

Description
Specific kit for contouring the occlusal surface of posterior composites, although it could also be used to re-establish the occlusal anatomy of inlay and onlays or even crowns if an occlusal adjustment has flattened it out. Nine of the 11 instruments have an acorn-shaped head, similar to Raptor. This shape, of course, allows you to re-establish cusp-to-fossa anatomy very quickly. Of the nine acorn-shaped instruments, six are diamonds (three are medium-grit, three are fine-grit) and three are 20-fluted carbides called top-spin. Both the fluted carbides and diamonds are pointed at the end of the acorn. The fine diamond instruments are color-coded with a red ring on their shanks, while the medium grit has no ring. (The carbides have a yellow ring.) There are also two bullet-shaped fluted finishing burs for making fine adjustments after roughing out the occlusal anatomy with the acorn-shaped instruments.

Packaging
Autoclavable red anodized aluminum burblock with rear-hinged aluminum cover allows you to clean, reassemble the kit, and then sterilize. Drawings of instruments helps when reassembling for autoclaving and the actual bur numbers help when reordering.

REALITY
This R.A.P.T.O.R. kit, the original version, will definitely help create a more ideal occlusal anatomy in an efficient, effective, and rapid manner. The acorn diamonds are designed to accomplish the somewhat elusive goal of optimizing occlusal anatomy, while the 30-fluted burs work reasonably well as support instruments. Even though you can certainly achieve beautiful anatomy without R.A.P.T.O.R., it would no doubt take more time, skill, and experience. R.A.P.T.O.R. levels the playing field and gives even the beginner in posterior composites a quick boost.

However, the R.A.P.T.O.R. diamonds will also cut enamel, so extra care must be exercised to keep them away from your margins. For perfect anatomical contours, the cutting sides of the R.A.P.T.O.R. burs should really be concave to ideally mimic the shapes of the cuspal inclines. In addition, we prefer 12-fluted finishing burs for more efficient contouring, compared to the 30-fluted variety.
Raptor was the first product to feature an acorn-shaped rotary instrument, similar to an acorn burnisher. If you overbuild the final layer of a posterior composite, this type instrument will allow you to contour it very quickly. With Raptor, the diamond abrasive is only on the end of the head, giving it an advantage as far as safety is concerned. With the diamond abrasive or carbide flutes covering the entire head of the bur, you could more readily inadvertently scar the tooth during finishing. Furthermore, in some situations, these burs may give you too steep cuspal inclines.

In any event, the Posterior Composite Sculpturing Kit is the only one that includes both diamonds and burs in this acorn shape. It’s also the only one with three different sizes and two diamond grits. However, the two smaller sizes and fine grit diamonds are the ones you will probably use most often, while the medium grit diamonds were considered too coarse and the large size in general was not very useful. In addition, the top-spin carbides do not cut as effectively as the diamonds.

It is still optimal to sculpt occlusal anatomy into the pre-polymerized composite, which would make using these acorn-shaped instruments unnecessary. However, they will still come in handy in situations where you must re-establish proper occlusal form.

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