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<th>Winged</th>
<th>Wingless</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygenic Fiesta 9 Color Coded Clamps</strong></td>
<td>$10.85</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coltene/Whaledent</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satin Steel Rubber Dam Clamps</strong></td>
<td>$9.55</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hu-Friedy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygenic Glossy</strong></td>
<td>$9.41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coltene/Whaledent</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ivory</strong></td>
<td>$10.29–$17.35</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heraeus Kulzer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Rubber Dam Clamps</strong></td>
<td>$14.05</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Dentsply Professional</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frames</th>
<th>Cost/Frame</th>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Width</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Original Rubber Dam Frame</strong></td>
<td>$11.75</td>
<td>Chrome-plated brass</td>
<td>4.1in/10.4cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ivory</strong></td>
<td>$41.85</td>
<td>Stainless steel</td>
<td>Child: 4.1in/10.4cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heraeus Kulzer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult: 5.1in/12.9cm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hygenic Dental Dam Frame/Metal</strong></td>
<td>$22.66</td>
<td>Chrome-plated brass</td>
<td>4.7in/12.0cm 5.4in/13.8cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coltene/Whaledent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nylon Radiolucent Endo Frame</strong></td>
<td>$11.65</td>
<td>Translucent Nylon</td>
<td>4.6in/11.6cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>179201 Contoured Metal Frame</strong></td>
<td>$23.25</td>
<td>Chrome-plated brass</td>
<td>5.4in/13.8cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygenic Dental Dam Frame/Plastic</strong></td>
<td>$12.83</td>
<td>White plastic</td>
<td>5.2in/13.25cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coltene/Whaledent</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Accessories to rubber dam usually get even less attention than the dam itself. However, the proper accessories can make the chore of placing a dam somewhat less onerous.

Rubber Dam Accessories

Rubber Dam Clamps

Winged vs. Wingless

Some dentists prefer winged, which is actually attached to the dam prior to taking it to the mouth, while others prefer wingless. The Editorial Team tend to favor winged (60%) compared to the 40% who preferred wingless.

Winged Clamp

**ADVANTAGES**

+ More rapid placement of dam.
+ Less chance to tear the dam stretching it over the clamp.
+ Less chance of popping off tooth and going down patient's throat.

**DISADVANTAGES**

– Dam can obscure teeth, making it more difficult to see if correct tooth is being clamped and if the clamp is being applied to the tooth correctly.
– Must stretch dam and open clamp at the same time, making clamp's placement more difficult.
– Clamp can slip off dam during placement.

Winged Clamp

**ADVANTAGES**

+ Clamp can be placed more rapidly and properly, since there is no dam to obscure vision.
+ Less projections on clamp itself, allowing better access to teeth.

**DISADVANTAGES**

– Stretching dam over clamp in the mouth can tear dam and/or dislodge clamp.
– Clamp must be ligated with floss to facilitate its retrieval if it slips off tooth during placement.

Suggestions for clamps

#3 Most maxillary molars.
#7 Most mandibular molars.
#8 Maxillary molars with no suprabulge. Will grab onto root surface.
#8A Small maxillary molars with no suprabulge. Will grab onto root surface.
#14A Mandibular molars with no suprabulge. Will grab onto root surface.
#14 Small mandibular molars with no suprabulge. Will grab onto root surface.
#2A Most premolars.
#2 Small premolars.
#212 Anterior teeth.
Hygenic Fiesta 9 Color Coded Clamps
Coltene/Whaledent
(4.7)

Winged or Wingless Color Coded Clamp Pak
Cost: $97.66/9 ($10.85 ea)

Number of winged clamps available
9

Number of wingless clamps available
9

Satin Steel Rubber Dam Clamps
Hu-Friedy
(4.3)

Cost: $9.55 ea

Number of winged clamps available
27

Number of wingless clamps available
16

Tiger (serrated jaws for partially erupted or broken down teeth)
4
Rubber Dam Accessories

**Hygenic Glossy**
Coltene/Whaledent

- Number of winged clamps available: 13
- Number of wingless clamps available: 12
- Number of Brinker clamps (tissue retractors): 2

**Cost:** $9.41 ea

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Glossy finish attractive
- Less expensive
- Not as colorful as siblings
- Going against an icon

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**Ivory**
Heraeus Kulzer

- Winged: 13
- Wingless: 4

**Tiger** (serrated jaws for partially erupted or broken down teeth)

- 8

**Cost:**
- $10.29–$13.73 ea Conventional
- $17.35 ea Tigers

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Best selection in specialty clamps
- Matte surface
- More expensive
- Smallest selection of wingless

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**Ash Rubber Dam Clamps**
Dentsply Professional

- Number of winged clamps available: 3
- Number of wingless clamps available: 4

**Cost:** $14.05 ea

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Non-reflective coating
- High quality
- Small selection
- No winged for molars
Hygenic Fiesta 9 Color Coded Clamps drew the most kudos in this rather mundane category. With the color-coding on the clamps matched to the color-coding on the posts of the stainless steel clamp organizer, it makes keeping track of the clamps very easy. The clamps themselves are high quality, with a non-reflective finish and very good holding power. In addition, the color-coding does not seem to fade even after repeated autoclave cycles. However, the selected clamps may not be the ones you prefer and autoclaving all the clamps each time you use just one will keep you from using the others during the sterilization cycle.

Satin Steel clamps come in a wide variety, with by far the most choice in winged clamps. Their price is moderate and they have a non-reflective finish. But there are no preselected kits to make ordering easier.

Hygenic Glossy clamps derive their name from the less than shiny but more than matte finish. They are the least expensive in this category, but they definitely take a back seat to their more glamorous sibling.

Ivory clamps will always have their advocates. They have a new matte finish and the best selection of serrated Tiger clamps, but these specialty clamps are also the most expensive and their selection of wingless clamps is the lowest.

Ash is another old-time company and, while its entries in this group are well-made, its selection is rather slim. However, they also have a non-reflective finish.

Rubber Dam Frames

Original Rubber Dam Frame

Young

Cost: $11.75

RAVES & RANTS

➕ The classic
➕ No learning curve
➖ Somewhat small
➖ Dam sometimes slips off tines
**Ivory Rubber Dam Frame**
Heraeus Kulzer

**Description**
Modification of classic design with black rubber covers at the top of the vertical arms, which also flare out at their ends. In addition, there are floss buttons on both vertical arms of the adult version near the tops of the arms. There are nine tines on the adult and 11 tines on the child version.

**Composition**
Stainless steel.

**Width**
- Child: 4.1in/10.4cm
- Adult: 5.1in/12.9cm

Cost: $41.85

**RAVES & RANTS**
- More tines for retention
- Two sizes
- How can you top a classic?
- Expensive

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**Hygenic Dental Dam Frame/Metal**
Coltene/Whaledent

**Description**
Modification of classic design with balls at the top of the vertical arms, which also flare out at their ends. In addition, there are hooks on both vertical arms at the halfway mark. There are seven tines in addition to the two hooks.

**Composition**
Chrome-plated brass.

**Widths (vertical struts, not flared ends)**
- 4.7in/12.0cm
- 5.4in/13.8cm

Cost: $22.66

**RAVES & RANTS**
- Larger than Young’s classic
- Extra retentive
- May be too large for some
- Takes longer to engage extra tines
Nylon Radiolucent Endo Frame
Young

Cost: $11.65

Description
Composed of radiolucent nylon in the same design as the classic version, except the struts are thicker for strength. Has 11 tines for retention.

Composition
Nylon.

Width
4.6in/11.6cm

RAVES & RANTS
- The classic in nylon
- Inexpensive
- Thicker than metal version
- Dam sometimes slips off tines

NEW

179201 Contoured Metal Frame
Young

Cost: $23.25

Description
Modification of classic design with balls at the top of the vertical arms, which also flare out at their ends. In addition, there are hooks on both vertical arms at the halfway mark. There are seven tines in addition to the two hooks.

Composition
Chrome-plated brass.

Widths (vertical struts, not flared ends)
5.4in/13.8cm

RAVES & RANTS
- Larger than Young’s classic
- Extra retentive
- May be too large for some
- Takes longer to engage extra tines

ENCORE
**Description**
Mimics classic Young design with two simple vertical arms connected by a curved horizontal arm, but the arms are much thicker for strength. Has 11 tines for retention.

**Composition**
White plastic.

**Width**
4.7in/11.9cm

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**REALITY**

The original **Young** metal frame, invented by Dr. Young in 1900, is a classic, comes with and without floss buttons, and is the least expensive metal frame by far. However, it may be too small for some large adults.

**Ivory** comes in two sizes, has more retentive tines, and black rubber over its ends to protect the patient. The child’s size that is virtually the same as the original Young’s. However, the Ivory versions are almost four times the cost of the Young model.

The **Hygenic Metal** is similar in design to Ivory, comes in almost the identical two sizes (although the sizes on the box do not match our measurements), and has metal balls on its flared ends for patient protection. But while it is half the price of Ivory, it is still double that of Young.

**Nylon Radiolucent Endo Frame** is obviously aimed for the endodontic market, since you can leave it in place when taking x-rays during these procedures. It is very inexpensive, but is bulkier than the typical metal frame.

**179201 Contoured Metal Frame** is an exact clone of the Hygenic Metal large size, but costs a few cents more.

**Hygenic Plastic** is also aimed at the endodontic market due to its radiolucency. It is also very inexpensive, but its tines are triangular in shape and may not grab a dam as well as the more conventional tines on the Nylon Radiolucent. In addition, its vertical arms are much shorter than any other frame in this category.
Rubber Dam Accessories

Rubber Dam Forcep

1 Ivory
Heraeus Kulzer

Cost: $64.05

RAVES & RANTS
No learning curve
May last for 10+ years
Disengaging clamp not always automatic
Looks scary to patients

REALITY
The only brand rated high enough to be included in this category is Ivory. While this design is not innovative, it does seem to work reasonably well.

Description
Conventional design with locking strut and spring-loaded arms.

Rubber Dam Punch

Rubber Dam Punch
In general, here are the correct sizes of holes to be punched:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth to be clamped</th>
<th>Hole Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premolar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxillary Incisor &amp; Canine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandibular Incisor &amp; Canine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For teeth to be isolated with the rubber dam but are not going to be clamped:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth to be isolated</th>
<th>Hole Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premolar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxillary Incisor &amp; Canine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandibular Incisor &amp; Canine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Ivory Punch
Heraeus Kulzer

Cost: $135.93

RAVES & RANTS
There is no competition
Very sturdy
Expensive
Getting the punched rubber out is a pain

Description
Nutcracker-like design. Six holes possible by rotating the wheel.
Rubber Dam Accessories

REALITY

The only brand rated high enough (again) to be included in this category is **Ivory**. While the price may seem high, this instrument should last for the life of your practice. To minimize tearing, always keep your punch, regardless of what type it is, free of the punched out pieces of dam. This will allow you to punch sharper holes, which are more tear-resistant.

**Miscellaneous**

**Wedjets**
Coltene/Whaledent

Cost: $17.87
Includes:
- 1 dispenser (7ft/2.3m)

Shelf Life: 4 years

**Description**
Rubber dental floss used to stabilize a rubber dam instead of clamp.

**Use**
Stretch the Wedjet across the area to be secured and insert with a downward pressure similar to using floss until the Wedjet goes through the contact and secures the dam in place.

**Sizes and Color-Code**
**Extra Small**
Blue

**Small**
Yellow

**Large**
Orange

**Packaging**
White cardboard box with color-coded labels for the sizes. Inside, there is a plastic dispenser that is identical to those used for floss. Expiration date is on the box, which you will promptly discard, but not on the dispenser.

**Directions**
Plain paper sheet with one illustration in 12 different languages.
Good information, logically presented.
**REALITY**

*Wedjets* are definitely an aid to securing a dam, especially at its anterior terminus, but it’s a stretch (no pun intended) to think it will retain a dam as well as a clamp. The three sizes make it quite versatile, but if a contact is wide open, even the large size won’t help.

**OTHER PRODUCTS IN THIS CATEGORY**

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<tr>
<th>Clamps</th>
<th>Frames</th>
<th>Punches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Hu-Friedy</td>
<td><em>Hygienic OSTBY</em></td>
<td>Sullivan-Schein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan-Schein</td>
<td>Coltene/Whaledent</td>
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