



Zirc's mirrors are available in either one piece or screw in options



ADAPT CHOICE

ZIRC FRONT SURFACE MIRROR

This month, Dr Howard Stean, chairman of the ADAPT group explains how front surface mouth mirrors can help improve intraoral visibility

Dentists are always struggling to see. If we cannot see, we cannot treat, and if we can only partially see, well we just hope it is alright. Traditionally we are trained to make use of mouth mirrors and no examination instrument set is complete without a mirror.

CHOICE

How much thought goes into the choice of a mirror? Well I say thought should go into that decision, as all mirrors are not equal. There are new mirrors, damaged mirrors, small medium and large mirrors.

But how about the image? Again not all are the same. Regular glazed mirrors are coated on the rear with a reflective material, and

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so we see 'ghost images' from both the glass surface and the back coating. This can be dealt with by applying a front coating over the glass, or else using a polished metal surface.

ZIRC MIRRORS

The Zirc mirrors we have used are front-surface coated, and give a clear bright image. We liked them. This company is a well-known, USA-based firm, which produces a variety of plastic-based dental implements.

The most popular size is number 4, and is this handy for most patients and many children.

Interestingly these are plastic covered, and we liked that too. The mirrors screw into standard handles so they are interchangeable without difficulty. The firm also supplies one-piece mirrors.

Extra care is needed with front-coated mirrors, because the surface can be marked or scored, and surface marks detract from diagnostic clarity. This applies to all similar mirrors, such as those used for dental photography.

It should be noted that certain care is needed during sterilisation and notes are included in the box.

ADAPT likes simple but effective aids to better dentistry and we feel that the benefits likely to accrue from the use of front surface mirrors warrant the Zirc mirror featuring in this month's ADAPT Choice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The full range of Zirc mirrors can be seen at www.zirc.com The range is now distributed in the UK and Ireland by Optident. Tel. 01943 605050 www.optident.co.uk

ADAPT evaluators are dentists who devote their own time, with no financial reward, to testing many types of materials, www.adaptuk.org

Howard Stean includes many of the ADAPT Choice materials within his popular Year Course in Aesthetic Dentistry. Details can be found at www.dentaleducation.org

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