Interview: A precise sharpening solution for curettes and scalers

By DTI

As a world premiere, Swiss-based company BADECO presented two devices for sharper dental instruments at DENTAL BERN, the Swiss dental trade fair, in Bern last week. With decades of experience in the jewellery and dental industries, BADECO showcased appliances that sharpen instruments with outstanding accuracy and speed. Dental Tribune Online spoke to BADECO CEO Amir Hoveyda and Arnold R. Deppeeler, designer and former Managing Director of the dental instrument manufacturer Deppeler, about the devices and the need for sharp scalers and curettes.

Dental Tribune Online: Mr Hoveyda, BADECO may not be well known to our international readers. Could you tell us more about the company and its history?

Amir Hoveyda: BADECO was founded in 1945 in Switzerland and has been manufacturing dental instruments ever since then. In the 1960s, we expanded our product portfolio to jewellery and watches using micro-motors. When one works with these products, one develops a clear understanding of precision, accuracy, robustness and performance. This is also the reason for the high quality of our dental instruments and sharpening machines. No matter the industry, the company has always looked to produce the most reliable, accurate and lightweight instruments. Today, we are the leading manufacturer of super-premium jewellery and watches in the world. In recent years, we have achieved ongoing innovation in the development, quality and reliability of BADECO dental tools. In 2009, I started to lead the research and development department. Since then, we have developed new tools and accessories at competitive prices. Our production plant is located in Geneva and all of our electronic components are Swiss made.

Mr Deppeler, you designed the two devices for the sharpening of dental instruments. How did you come up with the idea?

Arnold R. Deppeler: First of all, I have been in this industry for decades. Deppeler is an established manufacturer of premium dental instruments. Currently, the Swiss-based company offers more than 500 models of hand instruments. For example, the M23 universal scaler can be found in many dental practices across the world. While I have always been eager to provide dentists with the best instruments, I also saw the need for a superior sharpening device. After all, every dentist wants to work with sharp instruments to remove deposits completely and minimise patient discomfort. Sharpening of periodontal scalers and curettes requires knowledge about the degree of angulation and the sharpening stone. With too great an angle or too small an angle, blades become either weak or bulky. It is also necessary to understand how to determine when the blade is actually sharp. We would recommend sharpening on a regular basis rather than occasionally.

What makes your sharpening devices so unique?

Arnold R. Deppeler: Micromotors are very precise and easy to use for polishing, drilling, engraving and, most importantly, sharpening of dental instruments. We offer two powerful micromotor-based devices with a manual speed of up to 5,000 rpm. Our Opti Sharp allows for quick and accurate sharpening of universal dental curettes, scalers and Gracey curettes. The new machine is our solution for soft and rotary sharpening for optimum stability, comfort and precision. The guide plates display the three angles to be observed during sharpening: an angle of 10 degrees for universal curettes, 20 degrees for scalers and 30 degrees for Gracey curettes. The practitioner has to place the last shaft before the blade of the curette parallel to the line on the plate and gently rotate the grip on its axis, the blade always resting on the sharpening disk. We also offer the Speedy Sharp, our soft-touch sharpener for dental curettes. It takes seconds to sharpen the instrument. The grinding wheel plate is made out of ceramic or diamond and is self-adhesive. This allows for a beautiful form of the blade. There are also a magnifying glass and a test stick. Our Opti Sharp and Speedy Sharp machines offer a precise and fast solution.

Thank you very much for the interview.