**Hu-Friedy®**

**Disposable Prophy Angles**

**Questions & Answers:**

**Q: Who is the target for Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles?**

**A:** All dental professionals who perform rubber cup polishing treatments or are responsible for selecting and/or purchasing disposable prophy angles (DPAs) including hygienists, dentists, assistants, office staff, dental and dental hygiene school personnel and dental government accounts.

**Q: Why is Hu-Friedy introducing Disposable Prophy Angles to the market?**

**A:** Numbering over 200 million annually in the U.S. alone, rubber cup polishing treatments utilizing a disposable prophy angle are widely used by clinicians as the finishing step in a prophylaxis procedure. Strategic Data Marketing reports disposable prophy angles as one of the largest preventive categories with over $83 million in revenue in the US market alone in 2014. Hu-Friedy recognizes the opportunity to offer clinicians high-quality disposable prophy angle alternatives that complement the company’s existing line of hygiene, preventive and consumable infection control products. Allowing clinicians to perform at their best during every step of a treatment, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles feature ergonomic and design enhancements to improve clinical outcomes, reduce clinician stress and maximize patient acceptance with the quality, reliability and performance they have come to expect from Hu-Friedy.

**Q: What makes Hu-Friedy’s Disposable Prophy Angle unique?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles incorporate a number of features and design elements that together create a unique and innovative product that stands out from others on the market:

* Precision-manufactured internal drive delivers reliable, smooth performance
* Prophy cup incorporates an internal spiral design with a smooth exterior to retain paste and create less splatter.
* Premium, compression-molded rubber cup provides exceptional flare for greater interproximal reach while being gentle on soft tissue
* Proprietary grip design allows for a light, secure grasp with greater rotational control and reduced hand fatigue
* Available in both a standard straight and a 15-degree contra angle style that allows for a more comfortable, neutral wrist position when used with straight handpieces
* Sophisticated metallic-colored finish of the grip and body matches look and feel of Hu-Friedy instruments as well as stainless steel low-speed handpieces
* Made in the USA.

**Q: What are the differences between Hu-Friedy’s standard and contra angle styles?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are offered in two body styles: standard and contra. The standard body style is characterized by a straight design with the head and cup offset 90° from the body and grip. This traditional prophy angle body style allows prophy paste to be applied in a path parallel to the angle’s body. Hu-Friedy’s contra angle style is distinguished by a 15° backwards bend mid-body. Under most conditions, this unique angulation allows for a more ergonomic and comfortable, neutral wrist position when applying paste to the different areas of the mouth. When selecting the style of Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angle to use, the clinician may wish to consider the style of low-speed handpiece being utilized (e.g. straight vs. contra), the patient being treated as well as their own comfort and personnel preferences.

**Q: Why is the outside of Hu-Friedy’s rubber cups smooth instead of having external ridges or grooves as can be found on some of the angles on the market?**

**A:** Prophy paste splatter is one of the most often-mentioned concerns voiced by clinicians in their use of disposable prophy angles. Consequently, reducing splatter was one of Hu-Friedy’s primary objectives in the design of its new prophy angles. In its extensive testing and evaluation, Hu-Friedy found that under most circumstances external ridges or grooves on the cup surface create a paddlewheel effect that results in greater collection of paste and saliva with significantly more splatter compared with a smooth exterior.1 Since ridges may also cause greater discomfort when they come into contact with gingival tissue, Hu-Friedy chose to employ a smooth exterior paired with an internal spiral design to create a solution that improves paste retention, reduces splatter and enhances patient comfort.

**Q: How do Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles’ rubber cups perform with regard to flare and interproximal reach?**

**A:** Combined with its other ergonomic enhancements, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles deliver excellent interproximal access in large part due to the superior flare of its rubber prophy cups. The flexibility and flare of the rubber cups is a direct result of the company’s decision to use a compression mold and more expensive elastic material in their manufacture. Compared with lower-cost injection-molded silicone cups, Hu-Friedy compression-molded rubber cups offer more flexibility and greater flare when applied to the tooth surface while better maintaining their shape and integrity.

**Q: Are Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles latex free?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are not made with natural rubber latex. The angle bodies are made from plastic resin and the prophy cups are manufactured using a premium, elastic rubber derivative that has had the protein that causes latex sensitivity removed. Although some manufacturers choose to make their cups from silicone, Hu-Friedy chose an elastic material not made with natural rubber latex due to its greater flexibility, flare and superior overall performance.

**Q: When should a soft cup or firm cup be used?**

**A:** In order to address clinician preferences as well as patient specific requirements, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are available with both soft (purple) and firm (sky blue) cups. Under most circumstances, clinicians prefer the greater flexibility, flare and interproximal reach offered by a soft cup. Further, soft cups tend to be gentler on gingival tissue, which can provide a more comfortable experience for the patient. For patients with heavy stain, clinicians may prefer the additional cleaning properties that a firm cup offers.

**Q: What handpieces are Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles compatible with?**

**A:** Tested in accordance with the American National Standard/American Dental Association Specification No. 85, Part 1, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are compatible with most common low-speed (doriot-type) handpieces and are not recommended for operation over 3,000 RPM.

**Q: What is the recommended way to attach and detach a Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angle from a handpiece?**

**A:** After removing the disposable prophy angle from the unit package, align the notch at the bottom of the prophy angle with the guide pin on handset. Tighten the retention mechanism on the low -speed straight attachment to hold angle in place. The disposable prophy angle is now ready for use. To detach the disposable prophy angle from the handset after use, loosen the retention mechanism on the handset and firmly grasp the angle by the grip, detach from handpiece and dispose of angle properly. To avoid unnecessary contact with patient saliva and aid in proper disposal, the disposable prophy angle should never be pulled from the head when detaching from the handpiece.

**Q: Do Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles come sterile in their cellophane wrappers?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles, as all disposable prophy angles on the market today, are offered as non-sterile products. Recognized as single-use, Class 1 medical devices by both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada, disposable prophy angles pose minimal risk to patients and under proper use should not penetrate sterile areas of the body where a sterile device would be required. In support of best practices in infection control and prevention, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are designed for single use only and individually wrapped for the enhanced safety and convenience of the patient and clinician.

**Q: Can Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles be cleaned and sterilized for reuse?**

**A:** In accordance with Hu-Friedy’s Instructions for Use and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings2, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles should be used on one patient only and then disposed of appropriately.

**Q: What is the proper disposal method for Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles? Can they be recycled?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles are neither designed nor intended to be cleaned, disinfected, sterilized or recycled. Following their use on a single patient, they should be treated as regulated medical waste and disposed of appropriately following federal, state, and local regulations.2

**Q: Do Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles have a shelf life?**

**A:** For optimal performance, Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles should be used within three years of manufacture as noted on the expiration date on packaging.

**Q: Do Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles have a warranty?**

**A:** Hu-Friedy provides a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship, and Hu-Friedy will, at its option, repair or replace any product that fails as a result of any such defect. Please call Hu-Friedy Customer Care at 1-877-321-4333 with questions about the expected life of any specific product type or for further details.

**Q: How are Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles positioned relative to the company’s EMS Air-Flow polishing products?**

**A:** Clinicians consider both risks and benefits to selective polishing, rubber cup polishing and or air-powder polishing when considering treatment during preventive, therapeutic or maintenance care appointments. The polishing procedure is for selective stain removal, plaque biofilm removal and strives to create a smooth surface resistant to future plaque and stain adherence. Although Hu-Friedy believes there are significant benefits to air-powder polishing especially with the new generation of powders as seen in our Air-Flow Technology, there remains a substantial market for traditional rubber cup polishing and an opportunity for the company to deliver differentiated products that offer clinicians high-quality alternatives. Hu-Friedy Disposable Prophy Angles further strengthen the company’s position as a full-line provider of hygiene, preventive and consumable infection control products.

***References:***

1Hu-Friedy Prophy Cup Evaluation, August 2014;

2Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings— 2003. MMWR 2003;52(No. RR-17):[27,32,46].

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