



# Safe Handling of Propper Surgical Blades

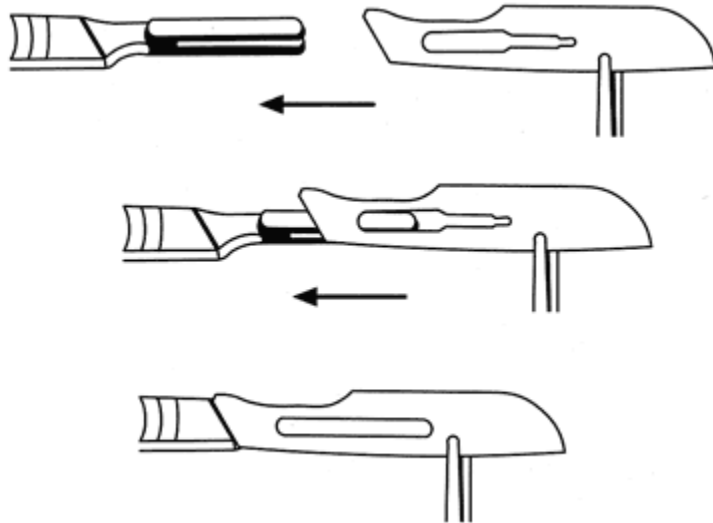
## Prevent typical causes of damage with proper handling

The way in which a surgical blade is handled prior to use can determine how effectively it performs during use. There are several ways that the cutting edge of a blade can become damaged once removed from its protective foil packet:

- When removing a blade from the protective packet make sure it is not dropped into a metal bowl or container as this can reduce the initial keenness of the cutting edge even before it is fitted to the handle;
- If you use forceps or needle holders to remove the blade from its protective packet, ensure that you do not grip the blade across the cutting edge.

## To Attach a Surgical Blade:

Use the following procedure to attach a surgical blade:

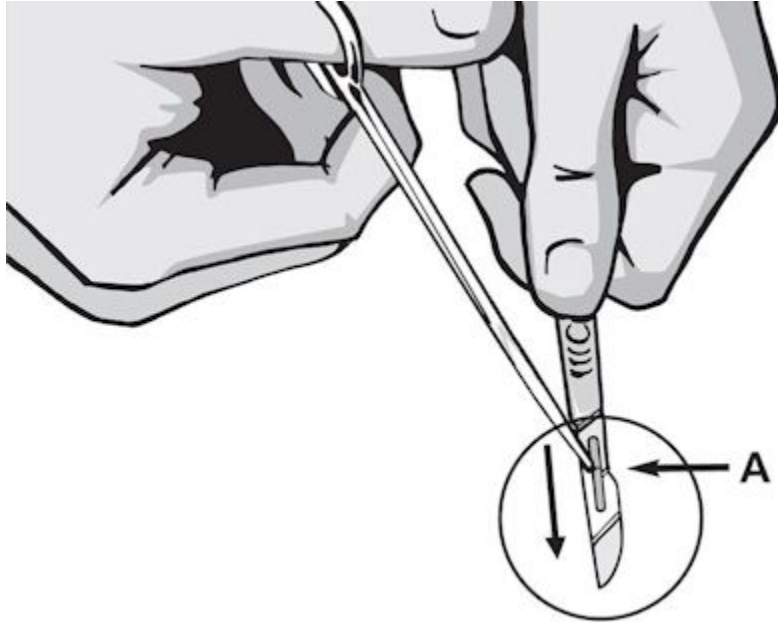


1. Grip blade with forceps, or similar, avoiding contact with cutting edge.
2. Hold handle in left hand with bayonet fitting uppermost.
3. Place blade partway over handle fitting and engage slots.
4. Slide blade until it clicks into position.
5. To improve assembly, flex blade slightly upwards when sliding onto the handle.



## To Remove a Surgical Blade:

Use the following procedure to detach a surgical blade:



1. Grip blade with forceps or needle holders at point **A** making sure that the cutting edge is facing away from hand and body.
2. Ensure the blade is pointing downwards and away from your body - **NOT** towards another member of your team.
3. Whilst holding the handle firmly lift the back edge of the blade with the forceps or needle holders and slide away the handle.