

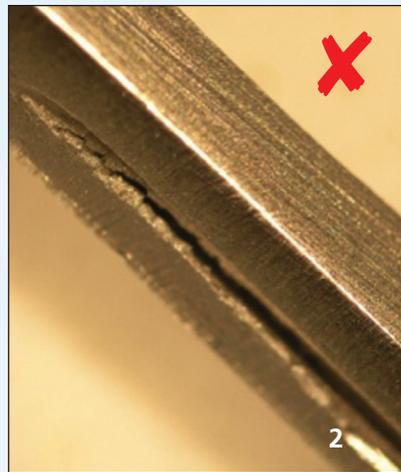
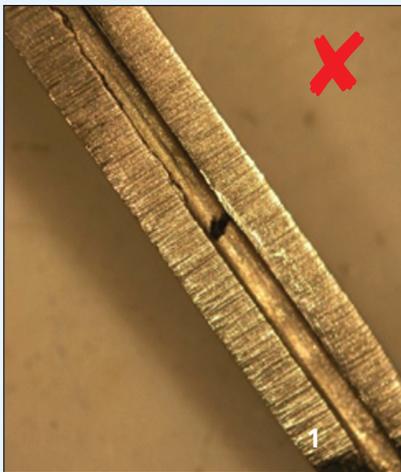
## Blades should never be fitted to handles with worn or damaged fitments.

### How to check whether your handles are fit for purpose?

- 1 Perform a visual check for burrs or metal fragments within the fitment slot of the handle as this may prevent the blade fitting correctly.
- 2 Check to ensure the handle is reusable and does not display a single use symbol unless new and straight out of a custom pack. Make sure single use handles are disposed of after the procedure in line with Hospital protocols.
- 3 Check the fitment slots for evidence of damage after each cleaning cycle.

**Blades should never be fitted to handles with damaged or worn fitments as they may not fully engage with or support the blade and there is a risk it may detach whilst in use thus compromising the safety of staff and their patients.**

The fitment dimensions of all surgical handles should be in strict compliance with BS EN 27740 and ISO 7740.

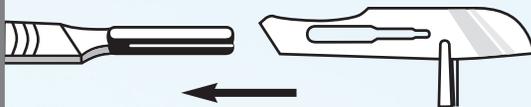


Images 1 and 2 supplied by Tom Brophy, Lead Technologist, The Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust.

### Attaching a surgical blade

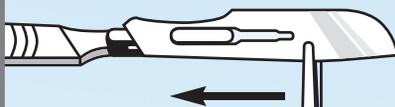
Use the following procedure to **attach** a surgical blade:

- 1 Grip blade with forceps, or similar, avoiding contact with cutting edge.
- 2 Hold handle in left hand with bayonet fitting uppermost.

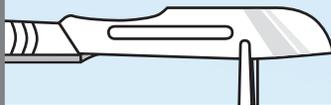


- 3 Place blade partway over handle fitting and engage slots.

- 4 Slide blade until it clicks into position.



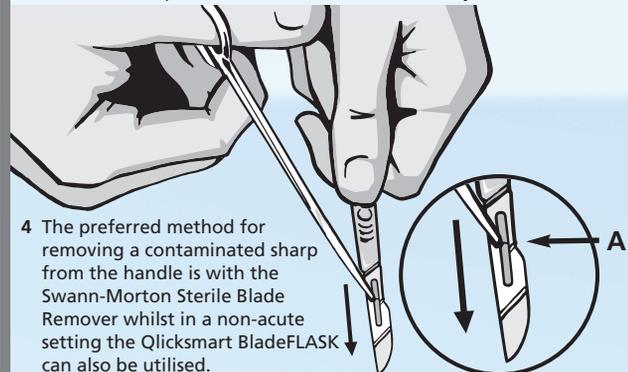
- 5 To improve assembly, flex blade slightly upwards when sliding onto the handle.



### Removing a surgical blade

Use the following procedure to **detach** a surgical blade:

- 1 Grip the blade with forceps or needle holders at point A making sure that the cutting edge is facing away from the hand and body.
- 2 Ensure the blade is pointing downwards and towards the trolley and 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.



- 4 The preferred method for removing a contaminated sharp from the handle is with the Swann-Morton Sterile Blade Remover whilst in a non-acute setting the Qlicksmart BladeFLASK can also be utilised.

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