

A Rapid Treatment Technique For Plaster Impressions

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One of the severest criticisms of the use of plaster of Paris as an impression material has been the amount of time utilized in preparing the assembled impressions for casting. Since only plaster of Paris is used as an impression material in the author's office, a great deal of time was consumed in treating the impressions before casting was possible.



Fig. 1
Equipment used in spraying technique.

In order to prevent the accumulation of impressions because of insufficient time for preparation, a technique of spraying shellac on plaster impressions with an air pressure spray gun was developed. Realizing that shellac is used solely as a surface filler for impressions—that the thin coat of sandarac

varnish is the true separating media—it was at once apparent that any successful shellacking of impressions must be one in which the shellac would not sink to any great depth in the plaster impression. In order to do this work properly, the equipment technique is as follows:

An ordinary De Vilbiss bottle with an atomizer nozzle attachment is used.

Standard S. S. White Shellac varnish is cut with an equal amount of pure alcohol. This alcohol and shellac is thoroughly shaken before being sprayed on the impressions.

Impressions are placed on a large piece of paper with the heels facing the operator.

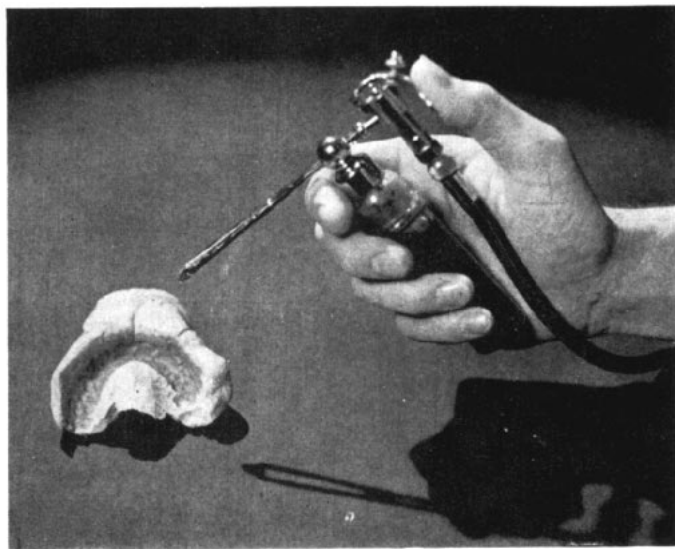


Fig. 2 Position of gun.

Holding the atomizer nozzle about six inches away from the impression, spraying is started at one heel and is quickly carried over the teeth to the other heel. It has been found that best results are obtained if the occlusal surfaces are sprayed first.

Next the sides of the impressions are sprayed, then the palatal or lingual surfaces and lastly the labial or buccal roll. A second coat is given immediately.

The entire time consumed in spraying two impressions is not over three minutes, if taken very slowly.

After using this technique for almost a year, the author is convinced that two very thin coats of shellac are sufficient in every case. Following

the drying of the shellac, a thin coat of sandarac varnish is painted on by hand. This is allowed to dry and the impression is finished and ready for the standard casting or pouring technique.

In order to facilitate the use of this technique, a few of the commoner pitfalls will be mentioned.

If the assembled impression is dry it should be immersed in water immediately before spraying. This does not mean soaking, but simply quickly dipping the impression in water and shaking off the excess before it is to be sprayed. In the case of green impressions this, of course, is not necessary.



Fig. 3 Two sets of impressions—before and after spraying.

Keep the atomizer spray moving at all times to prevent an unwelcome accumulation of shellac in any area. If the shellac appears to be thickening in any spot on the impression, brush with pure alcohol and blow excess away with air pressure.

Since there is a tendency for the shellac to soak further into the impression when sprayed than when painted by hand, care must be exercised in uncovering the crowns of the teeth.

Since the impression will break away from the model in much larger and cleaner pieces, it is essential that all undercuts be relieved before breaking away the sides.

Following the use of the spray gun, all parts should be thoroughly cleaned with alcohol and dried before being put away.

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