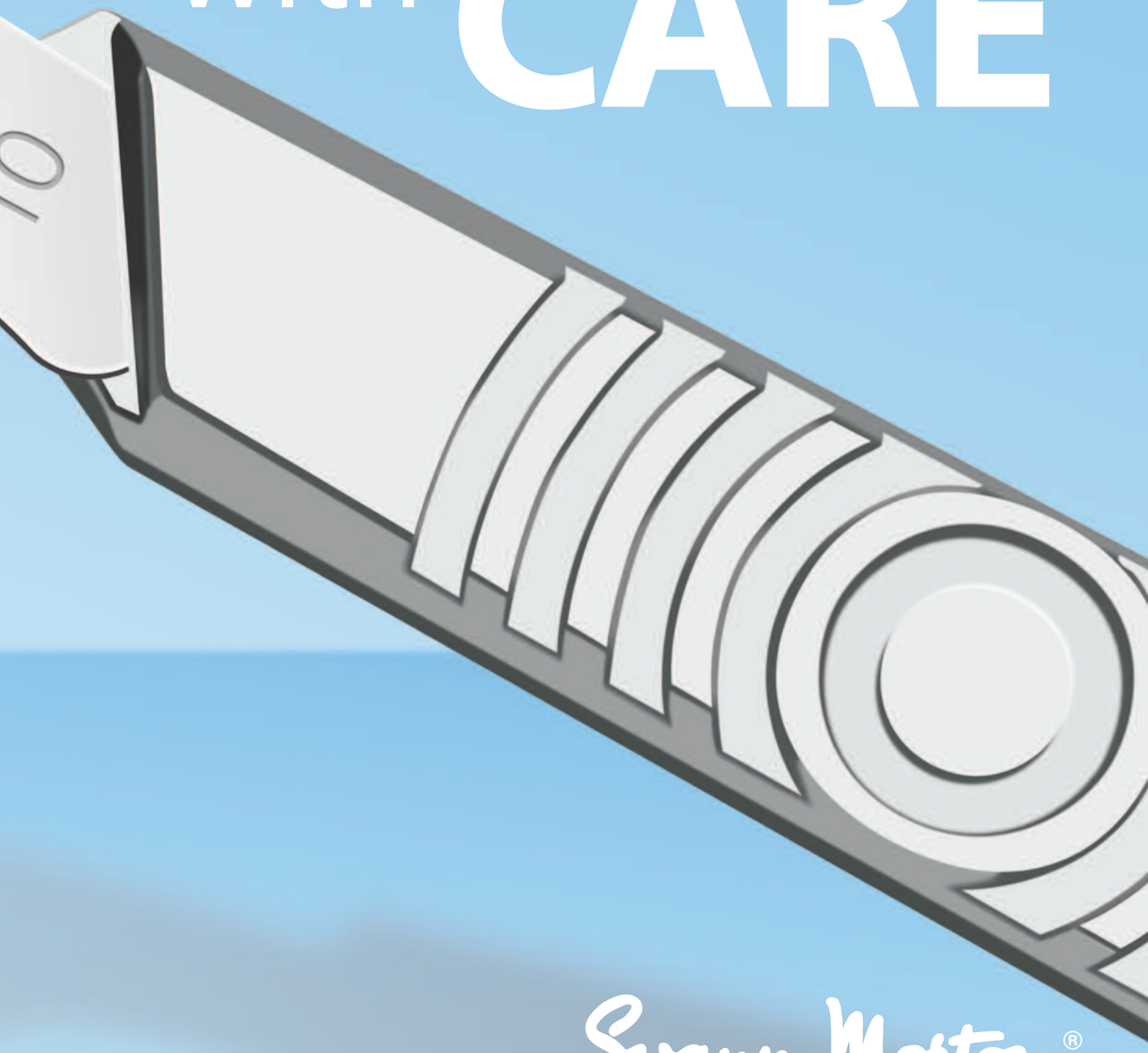
HANDLE with CARE



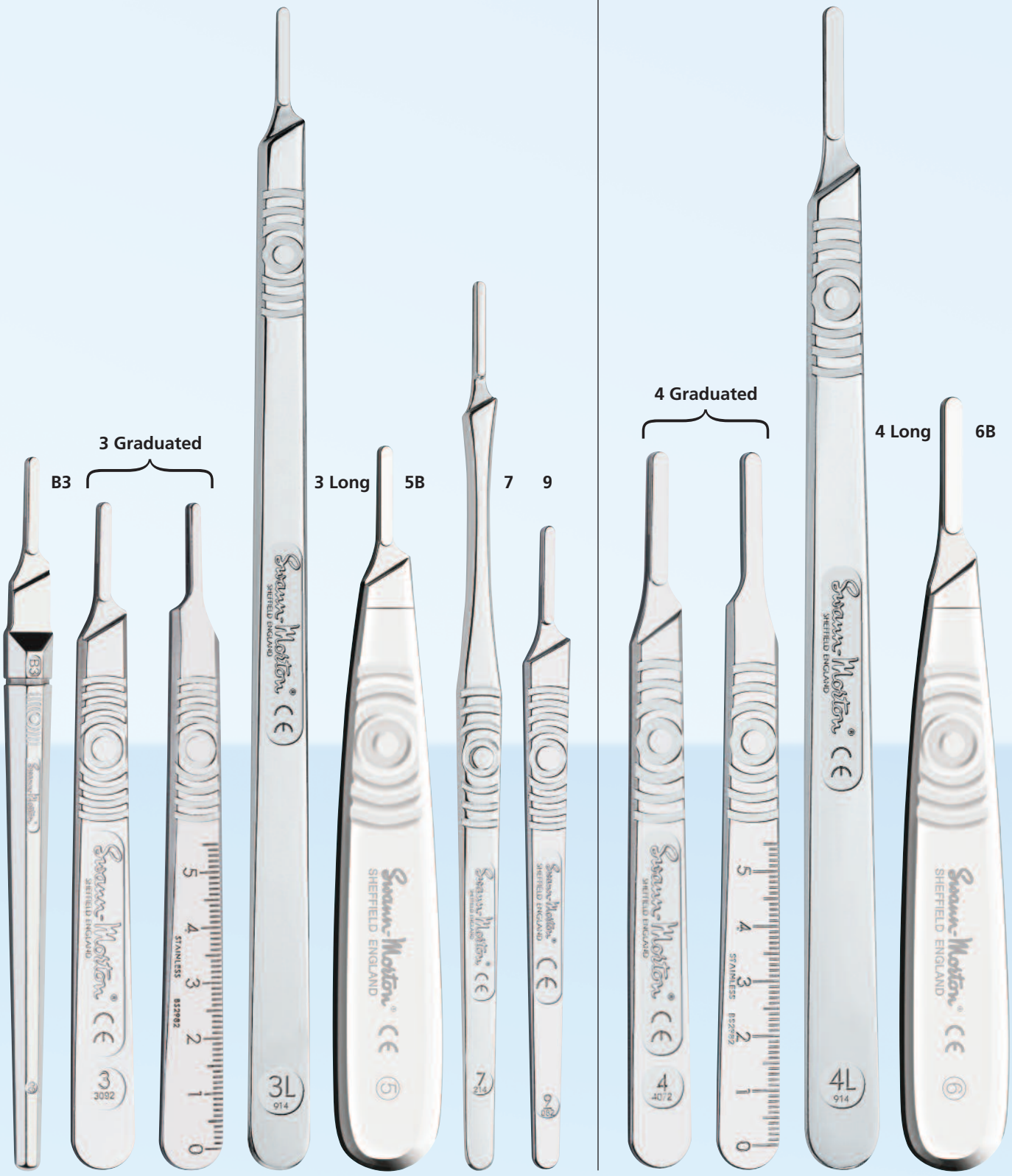
Swann-Morton®

Swann-Morton Stainless Steel Surgical Handles with fitment size No 3 (small) are the Graduated 3, 3L, 5B, 7, 9, B3 and fit Standard Surgical Blade sizes 6, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11P, E/11, Sabre E/11, 12, 12D, 13, 14, 15, 15A, 15C, 15T, Sabre D/15, 16 and 40.

All handles are available in Stainless Steel, individually wrapped, and boxed in units of 10 with the exception of the B3 and 5B supplied individually in plastic wallets.

Swann-Morton Stainless Steel Surgical Handles with fitment size No 4 (large) are the Graduated 4, 4L, 6B and fit Standard Surgical Blade sizes 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22A, 23, 24, 25, 25A, 26, 27 and 36.

All handles are available in Stainless Steel, individually wrapped, and boxed in units of 10 with the exception of the 6B supplied individually in plastic wallets.



Surgical instruments are designed to perform many specific functions. The use of any instrument for tasks other than those for which they are intended may result in damage or breakage. The correct cleaning, handling and sterilization procedures will ensure that your surgical instrument will perform as intended and extend its useful life.

How Supplied:
Swann-Morton surgical handles are supplied non sterile and must be cleaned and sterilized prior to use according to the procedures outlined in this document unless stated otherwise on the packaging of the product.The following procedures are recommended to ensure safe handling of biologically contaminated surgical handles.

Precautions:
To avoid damage to the bayonet fitment of surgical handles care should be taken during cleaning and sterilization. Tumbling actions should be avoided and instruments manufactured from different metals (i.e. Stainless Steel and Nickel) should be processed separately to avoid electrolytic action between them. It is also advised that blackened instruments and instruments made from different steels are separated to avoid scratches and removal of the black coating. Reprocessing should always be carried out in line with local Health and Safety procedures.

Warnings:
Follow the instructions and warnings issued by the manufacturers of any decontaminants, disinfectants and cleaning agents used. Wherever possible avoid the use of mineral acids and harsh abrasive agents. No part of the process shall (or should) exceed 140 degrees Celsius. Some sensitive materials can be damaged by higher alkaline solutions, (pH >10). Please note that single use devices must not be reprocessed and reused.

Limitations on Reprocessing and Cleaning:
Repeated reprocessing has minimal effect on the longevity of Swann-Morton surgical handles. The end of life is normally determined by wear and damage during use. For best results and to prolong the life of the surgical handle it should be reprocessed as soon as it is reasonably practical following use. If it cannot be reprocessed immediately an enzymatic cleaner should be used to help prevent soil from drying, giving special attention to the blade fitting slots. Wherever possible do not allow blood, debris or bodily fluids to dry on the surgical handle. Detailed automated and manual cleaning instructions can be found on our website: http://www.swann-morton.com/view_reading.php?reading_id=7

Inspection:
Following cleaning a thorough inspection of the handle is recommended. Visually check the grooves of the bayonet and indentations on the handle to ensure that all biological contaminants have been successfully removed. Check the handle fitment for damage and excessive wear and discard and arrange replacements where appropriate. All instruments should then be packed following local protocol in accordance with the relevant British, European and International Standards.

Sterilization:
Handles should be sterilized using a CE marked or HTM compliant validated autoclave. The sterilization temperature should be at least 134°C and have a hold time minimum of 3 minutes. When sterilizing multiple instruments in one autoclave cycle ensure that the manufacturer's stated maximum load is not exceeded and always follow the individual instructions of the machine manufacturer. Also ensure that all instruments are dry prior to sterilization.

Storage:
Ensure that surgical handles are dry before storage and that they are kept in dry, clean conditions at ambient room temperature.

It is the responsibility of the reprocessor to ensure that cleaning, inspection, sterilization, packing and storage is performed using equipment and materials that are fit for purpose and that produce the desired results. This will require validation and routine monitoring of the process. Any deviation by the reprocessor from the instructions provided must be evaluated for effectiveness and any potential adverse consequences.

No 3 fitting handles

0933	Graduated Stainless No 3 Surgical Handle
0913	No 3L Stainless Surgical Handle
0905	No 5B Stainless Surgical Handle
0907	No 7 Stainless Surgical Handle
0909	No 9 Stainless Surgical Handle
0923	No B3 Stainless Surgical Handle

No 4 fitting handles

0934	Graduated Stainless No 4 Surgical Handle
0914	No 4L Stainless Surgical Handle
0906	No 6B Stainless Surgical Handle

CE All medical devices are CE marked in accordance with the Medical Device Directive (93/42/EEC)

EMS 633531 ENMS 633525 FM 73368

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

How to check whether your handles are fit for purpose?

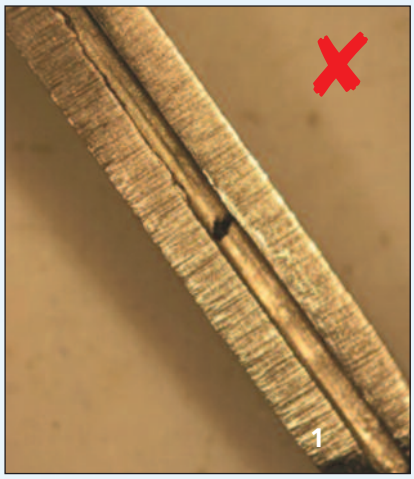
1 Perform a visual check for burrs or metal fragments within the fitment slot of the handle as this may prevent the blade fitting correctly.

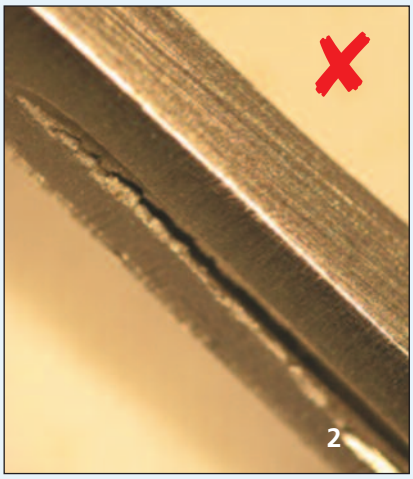
2 Check to ensure the handle is reusable and does not display a single use symbol unless new and straight out of a custom pack. Make sure single use handles are disposed of after the procedure in line with Hospital protocols.

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.







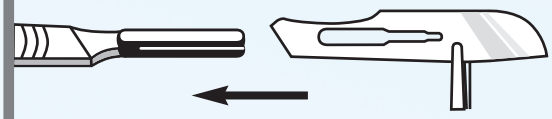
Images 1 and 2 supplied by Tom Brophy, Lead Technologist, The Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust.

Attaching a surgical blade

Use the following procedure to attach a surgical blade:

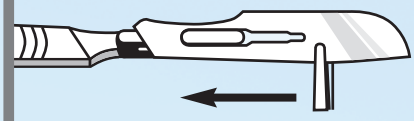
1 Grip blade with forceps, or similar, avoiding contact with cutting edge.

2 Hold handle in left hand with bayonet fitting uppermost.

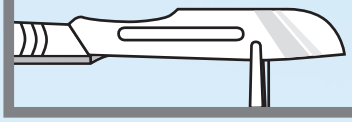


3 Place blade partway over handle fitting and engage slots.

4 Slide blade until it clicks into position.



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



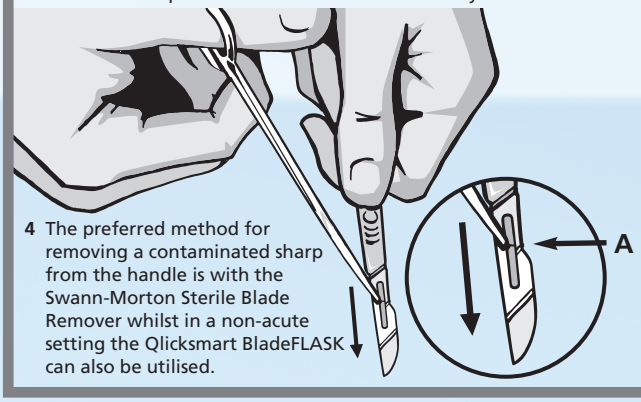
Removing a surgical blade

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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