

## MIXPAC™ Colibri

The Colibri mixing tips by Sulzer Mixpac make daily dental routines a pleasure.

We face challenges every single day: for example, molars which are slanted to buccodistal, patients who cannot open their mouths wide enough, or a restricted view. If in such situations, material is to be applied from mixing tips in a targeted manner, then the standardized angles of application tips are usually not optimal. Customization is needed here - and this is where the Colibri mixing tips by Sulzer Mixpac AG come into play.



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The dental industry keeps launching more and more multi-component materials in cartridges. As a rule, the various products simplify application, but we are not always dealing with standard situations. Furthermore, the trend is moving toward minimally invasive techniques which require more delicate instruments and application aids. For some time now, Sulzer Mixpac AG has included a mixing tip with a bendable stainless steel cannula in its product range which alleviates our work in a number of situations. I was given the opportunity to evaluate these mixing tips for several weeks and must admit - I am impressed.



S-Dispenser II with cartridge  
and Colibri mixing tip  
by Sulzer Mixpac AG

### MIXPAC™ Colibri

In principle the Colibri is designed like the well-established MIXPAC™ mixing tips. However, it features an additional metal cannula on the tip. The Colibri is available with a yellow, blue or brown retaining ring to fit all sizes of cartridges. The outer diameters of the metal cannulas vary between 0.9 mm to 1.4 mm.

The metal cannulas are made of medical grade stainless steel and can be bent up to 180° by hand without changing the internal diameter of the cannula in the process. The cannula can be rotated freely after bending and can be adapted individually to the prevailing treatment situation. The ends of the metal cannulas are deburred and thus minimize the risk of injury to the soft tissue.



The metal cannulas of the Colibri have outer diameters of 0.9 mm, 1.1 mm and 1.4 mm.



The metal cannulas can be shaped easily into the desired shape e.g. by bending them around the rounded part of an instrument.

### Taking impressions of preparations

One of the first applications with the Colibri mixing tips was their use for taking impressions of preparations. This quickly showed clear benefits versus the yellow intra oral tips I had so far been using. On the one hand, the metal cannula has a smaller diameter and allows a more individual adjustment in bending angle. On the other hand, it is easier to access the sulcus region. Narrow



The Colibri mixing tips alleviate application of the impression material directly at the preparation margin close to the sulcus. Here is the comparison with the intra oral tip made of plastic.



The Colibri mixing tips simplify the precise placement of materials for temporary restorations in the sulcus close to the preparation margin.



Filling the restored crown preparation of a bridge with core build-up material using a Colibri mixing tip with brown retaining ring and a 1.4 mm metal cannula.

approximal spaces are no longer an obstacle thus allowing better guidance of the material with the tip. The risk of traumatizing the gingiva is effectively minimized by the smoothed ends of the metal cannulas. Furthermore, the low viscosity impression materials can be applied easier and with greater precision to the desired area.

### Temporary restorations

The Colibri mixing tips with the blue retaining rings are particularly suited for fabricating temporary restorations. Often the soft tissue needs to be supported here, particularly in case of metal-free restorations as well as esthetic zones. To achieve this, the material should be applied as close as possible to the preparation margin. This is an ideal field of application for the bendable metal cannula which demonstrates the same advantages in this situation as with impression taking. Time-consuming adjustment with flowable composite can therefore be avoided.

### Core build-ups

For core build-ups, I used a composite in cartridges, which meant using the Colibri with the brown retaining ring and a metal cannula with an outer diameter of 1.4 mm. Customizing the metal cannula by bending and rotating makes it easier to reach the preparation as well as provides deeper insertion into the matrix and placement of the composite close to the preparation. The material can be applied without complications and remains free of bubbles.

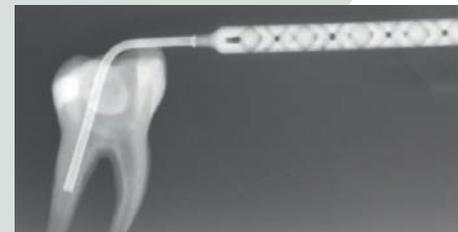
### For small amounts of material

The metal cannulas also proved practical where only small amounts of material had to be placed or applied precisely. The Colibri mixing tips also proved themselves when bonding titanium sleeves with ceramic crowns for implant restorations as they do not restrict the view on the cement in the lumen of the crown.

Equally, the delicate metal cannula is ideally suited for root canal interventions. Medicated inserts and cements for root posts can be placed directly in the root canal without difficulty, in as far as the bonding reaction of the components permits. Similar to endodontic instruments and irrigation needles, the metal cannulas can be adjusted to the topography of the canals by bending.



The Colibri with brown retaining ring and the 1.4 mm metal cannula allows precise application of the cement when bonding implant crowns to the titanium base.



The Colibri mixing tips with an outer diameter of 0.9 mm can be adapted to the topography of the canals simply by bending.

### Growing enthusiasm

The advantages of the Colibri became more and more prominent during the test phase. Following initial skepticism, the enthusiasm and willingness to use the mixing tips grew. The spectrum of use was extended continuously, resulting in creative and efficient solutions.

At times it is the small but excellent details which make work easier and a pleasure. The Colibri mixing tips are definitely one of these highlights.

