

Facebow transfer: How easy is it?

by Shannon Pace, DA II



In today's esthetic dentistry, the use of an articulator and facebow have become much more critical.

When restoring anterior teeth, the facebow record provides critical information for your

laboratory and will help you obtain predictable results...every time! This is probably one of the most important diagnostic records you can take for your patient.

The facebow transfer establishes the relationship of the maxillary dentition to the horizontal reference plane so that the maxillary cast can be mounted on the articulator in the correct anatomical position. In simpler terms, the facebow transfer establishes the relationship between the upper teeth and the patient's head.

A benefit of using the Denar® Slidematic facebow is that multiple transfer jigs may be used with only one measuring bow. In some cases, the mounting of the maxillary cast can be delegated to the laboratory, involving no loss of accuracy and no period of time without facebow transfer capability in the dental office.

The laboratory can attach an articulator index to its own Denar articulator and mount the maxillary cast using only the bitefork assembly from the dental office. Each articulator index positions the bitefork assembly on any Denar articulator so that the relationship with the condyles recorded on the patients is accurately reproduced on the articulator. As you see from the illustrations inside, taking a facebow transfer is as easy as 1,2,3. In fact, the Denar Slidematic facebow is so easy to use that almost always the dental assistant takes this vital record.

Here are some materials needed to take an accurate facebow record:

- Earbow
- Bitefork and Transfer Jig Assembly
- Reference Plane Locator
- Reference Plane Marker
- A rigid or reinforced cotton roll
- Rigid bite registration material or baseplate wax



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

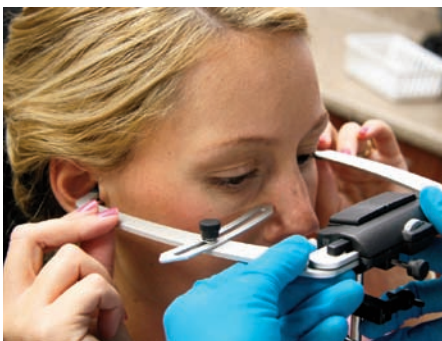


Figure 6

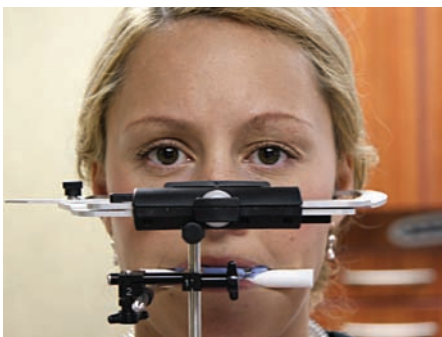


Figure 7

Denar® Slidematic
Facebow



Tech Steps:

1. Mark the anterior reference point on the patient's right side using the Reference Plane Locator and Marker. (Remember: On an edentulous patient; measure up from the lower border of the upper lip when in rest.) (Figure 1)
2. Place bite registration on three points of contact. (Figure 2)
3. With the bitefork arm to the patient's right, place the fork into the mouth, aligning the patient's midline with the index notch, so that it is parallel with the patient's coronal and horizontal planes. Place a rigid or reinforced cotton roll under the bitefork to stabilize the bite. (Figure 3)
4. Attach the vertical shaft to the measuring bow with clamp marked #2 on the patient's right and tighten the finger screw on the earbow. It is necessary to tighten the finger screw to secure the vertical shaft to the measuring bow and avoid any movement. (Figure 4)
5. After you have loosened the finger screws on clamps #1 and #2, then loosen the center wheel so that the earbow will open and adjust to the patient's face. Assemble the facebow on the patient by sliding the bitefork arm through clamp marked #2 as the measuring bow's earpieces fit tightly into the patient's ear. Tighten the center wheel on the bow. (Figure 5)
6. Raise or lower the bow so that the pointer aligns precisely with the anterior reference point. If you are aligned with the reference point, tighten clamps #1 and #2. Be careful not to alter the bow while tightening the clamps. (Figure 6)
7. Have the patient stand and ensure the bow is parallel to the horizon. (Figure 7)
8. Loosen the finger screw on the measuring bow, slide open the bow, and remove the facebow from the patient. Detach the measuring bow from the transfer jig by loosening the finger screw. Make sure that the #1 and #2 clamps are secure.
9. Lastly, the bitefork and transfer jig are placed in a storage medium with the patient's name, ready to be sent to your laboratory, while the earbow and additional bitefork assembly are ready for the next patient.

In conclusion, it only takes minutes to do, and why take the chances of a remake? The information provided to the laboratory helps everyone receive unsurprising results.

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