

# Alfa™ Triple Tray®

## Lab Technique



### Inspecting the Impression

A successful model is the result of a good impression. Premier's new Alfa™ Triple Tray®, capable of taking both the maxillary and mandibular impressions along with the bite registration all at the same time, is ideal for preliminary impressions (Figure 1).

After the Alfa Triple Tray is removed from the patient's mouth, it should be inspected. If the patient has impinged on the tray and any part of the tray walls are exposed, the impression should be re-taken. Also look to make sure that the patient has closed into full occlusion and that all critical areas are recorded.

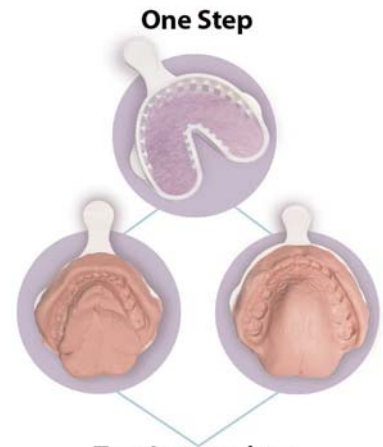
When using alginate, the tray should be wrapped in a damp paper towel and placed in a sealed bag until ready to pour (Figure 2).

### Pouring the Impression

When the impression is ready to be poured, it is removed from the bag and unwrapped. A separating medium (silicone spray) should be applied to the impression to facilitate easy removal of the models from both sides of the tray (Figure 3).

A fast-set stone is recommended when pouring an Alfa Triple Tray impression. Mixed-stone is applied to the impression, starting in small increments (Figure 4). The tray is placed in contact with a vibrator to eliminate air bubbles. Once sufficient stone has been applied, it can be applied in larger amounts to begin forming the base (Figure 5).

*(continued)*



**Figure 1. Two Impressions**  
Mandibular and Maxillary



**Figure 2. Store properly until pouring.**



**Figure 3. Use separating medium.**



**Figures 4 and 5. Initially apply stone in small increments, then in larger amounts.**

The use of a model (base) former is recommended to generate a solid model and to avoid overflow between the arches. Mixed-stone is placed in the base and placed on the vibrator to eliminate air bubbles. The tray then is inverted onto the base (Figure 6).

Wrap the tray (still in the base) in a damp towel and return it to the plastic bag while the stone sets (Figure 7). If a fast-set stone is being used, it is not necessary to place the wrapped tray into the plastic bag. Allow the stone to set per the manufacturer's directions.

Leave the base intact and pour the second side (Figure 8); mixed-stone is applied to the impression tray in small increments. The tray is placed in contact with a vibrator to eliminate air bubbles. Once sufficient stone has been vibrated into the impression, it can be applied in larger amounts to begin forming the base. A model former is filled with stone to form the rest of the base. The tray then is inverted onto the model base.

Wrap the tray (still in the base) in a damp towel and return it to the plastic bag while the stone sets. If a fast-set stone is being used, it is not necessary to place the wrapped tray into the plastic bag. Allow the stone to set per the manufacturer's directions.

After the stone sets, both models are removed from the tray (Figure 9).

### Helpful Tips

Once the models are finished, they can be articulated easily by returning them into the Alfa Triple Tray, making it very easy to create study models.

The models can be trimmed by your preferred method. If the models are being used to create tooth-whitening trays, it is desirable to remove as much of the base as possible, leaving only the arch (Figure 12). Two methods that can accomplish this are either to apply the bottom of the models against the trimming wheel (Figure 10) or to remove the stone with a lab wheel (Figure 11).

### Eliminate the Need to Wrap the Impression in a Damp Paper Towel

PVS alginate substitute materials, such as StatusBlue® by Zenith/DMG or Position® Penta™ by 3M ESPE, allow the impression to be poured again, if needed, and do not require wrapping while the stone sets. Another option would be to use Extend-A-Pour from Van R that reportedly preserves the alginate impression for up to four weeks.



Figure 6. Invert into a base.



Figure 7. Wrap while stone sets.



Figure 8. Pour second side.



Figure 9. Models removed from model bases.



Figure 10. Removing excess material on a trimming wheel.



Figure 11. Removing excess material with a lab wheel.



Figure 12. The finished models for tooth-whitening.