

EQUIPMENT ADVISORY REPORT

Five reasons your apex locator could be outdated...



As a clinician, you have been using an electric apex locator for years. You already know the benefits and how it helps you provide better care for your patients. But how often do you upgrade your equipment and handpieces? And when is the last time you considered researching new apex locators? Probably not since you purchased your first one.

Now is the time to consider the features of your current apex locator and how they compare to the newest, most up-to-date locators on the market.

Here, Joe Maggio, DDS, owner of Advanced Endodontics-II in Lisle, Illinois, and past president of the American Association of Endodontists, looks at five reasons your apex locator may be outdated and how you could benefit from updating your equipment.

Ability to set own zero-point:

"Some doctors like to instrument to the foramen, some like to be half a millimeter short of that level and others like to be even further from that level," says Dr. Maggio. If your apex locator does not respect your preferred zero point, your equipment may be outdated.

The capability to customize your own zero point allows you to easily implement your professional judgment. "If you want to set the zero point half a millimeter short of the foramen or a full millimeter short, you can," Dr. Maggio explains. "Or you can leave it as it comes from the manufacturer with the zero point being at the foramen."

Continuous calibration:

It can only be expected that, if calibration is inconsistent, your reading will not be accurate. If your apex locator reading "jumps around" rather than holds steady, it probably doesn't have continuous calibration, and your equipment may be outdated.

Many locators on the market today do not boast continuous calibration to ensure accurate, uninterrupted readings in real time. For precise information, look for a locator that offers continuous calibration.

Audible alerts:

It is hard to be in two places at once, as it is difficult to be looking in two places at once. When you are determining working length, it seems counter-productive to be staring behind you or beside you at a screen. If your apex locator insists you stare at the screen during procedures, your equipment may be outdated.

"What is nice about audible alerts, which you can control the level up or down quite easily, is that you don't have to be looking at the equipment the entire time," Dr. Maggio says. "You can be looking at the tooth while you are bringing the file down to your particular length, and the equipment will continue to give you feedback, so you know when you are getting close."

Battery operated:

Every piece of electronic equipment needs power. But what happens when the power runs dry in your apex locator, and you've got a patient in your chair? If your apex locator makes patients wait while it recharges, your equipment may be outdated.

Look for a locator that runs on batteries. "AAA batteries make it very easy to simply change the batteries if you run out of power," Dr. Maggio says. "Others need to be recharged, making for an awkward wait period with patients."

Single cord:

The saying goes "two is better than one," but not in the case of apex locator conveniences. If your apex locator requires two cords for operation, your equipment may be outdated.

Modern locators should only need one cord to operate correctly and accurately. "A single cord should have both the liphook, which completes the cycle from the circuit, and also the file holder or file clip you want to test it with", Dr. Maggio says. Look for an updated locator with one cord for simple, convenient use.

Kerr SybronEndo

Zero in on your target.

NEW Apex ID

Digital Apex Locator

Apex ID is compact and modern with unique functions which allow you to focus on what's really important; providing the best care for your patients.

User-set zero point

Customize the "zero point" based on your clinical judgment. No need to constantly monitor the visual display, the audible signal will let you know when you've reached your preferred zero point.

Accuracy in almost any condition

Apex ID has been designed to work in almost any canal condition. Whether dry, wet, bleeding, filled with saline, EDTA, NaOCI, chlorhexidine, the Apex ID can still provide accurate, consistent and dependable readings.

Continuous calibration

Unlike most locators on the market today, Apex ID continuously calibrates for accurate, uninterrupted readings in real-time.





	Part #	Description
/	972-0090	(1) Apex ID, (1) Apex ID Stand, (5) Lip Hooks, (2) File Holder B, (1) File Holder A (1) Probe Cord, (1) Apex ID IFU, (3) AAA 1.5V Batteries
	972-0092	(5) Apex ID Lip Hooks
	972-0093	(2) Apex ID File Holder B
/	972-0094	(1) Apex ID File Holder A
	972-0095	(1) Apex ID Probe Cord

8185 Rev. A

