CLINICAL AID

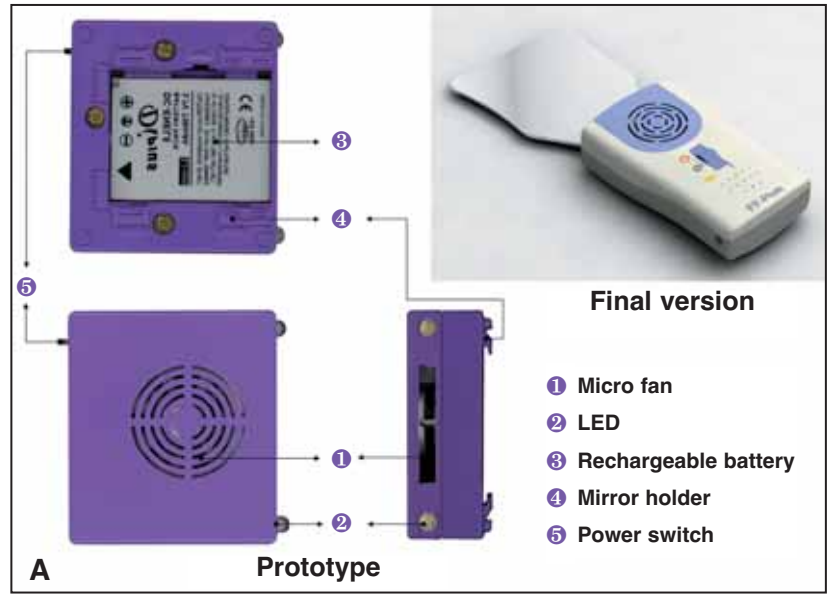
Simplified, Fog-Free Intraoral Photography

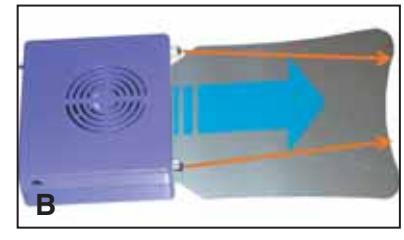
Intraoral photography increasingly involves the use of mirrors to improve image quality and thus facilitate patient communication and legal documentation. Achieving high-quality images is still difficult, however, because of the mirrors' tendency to fog, especially in mouthbreathing patients, and to reflect light. Even though mirrors designed for intraoral use have a special coating to resist fogging, adequate defogging often requires blowing air on the mirror or dipping it in hot water and then wiping away the excess moisture. In addition, an alternative light source is needed to overcome the problem of reflection from the dental light unit.

A new photography mirror, the FF-Photo,* improves the quality of intraoral photographs by overcoming the limitations of conventional defogging methods.

The Fog-Free Mirror

The FF-Photo consists of a box, measuring 2.5" × 1.5" × 1", with a cooling fan, a rechargeable battery, two light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and a main board. The back of the box contains slots to accommodate the handles of occlusal and buccal mirrors, thus allowing the device itself to serve as a handle during photography (A). In the assembled device (B), air from the fan blows across the mirror (blue arrow) between the two beams of light emitted by the





*Osung MND Co., Ltd., #324, Kunha-Ri Wolkot-Myeon, Kimpo-Shi, Kyonggi-Do, South Korea; www.osung.co.kr. Patent held by Ms. Lee.

LEDs (orange arrows).

The FF-Photo has several advantages over conventional defogging methods. With the built-in fan, the photographer does not need an assistant for defogging. In addition, the light provided by the device is much more direct than conventional dental lighting because of the close proximity of the LEDs to the mirror (C). Finally, the device reduces chairtime and thus patient discomfort, which is especially helpful in the treatment of impatient children or handicapped people.

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