

| Type | Name | Description | Use |
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| Ratcheted Forceps: grasping instruments with a step-locking feature that means they can be locked closed at different internals. | Allis | Toothed forceps. | Toothed forceps. Grasping firm, dense tissues like fascia. |
| | Babcock | Jawed, smooth-ended forceps. | Grasping delicate tissues, like bowel tissue, without damaging it. |
| | Dunhills | Small forceps with a serrated curved edge. | Grasping vessels, sutures, and tissues for ligation. Also used to clamp blood vessels shut. |
| | Lane Tissue | Forceps with interlocking teeth. | Grasping firm, dense tissue like cartilage. |
| | Littlewoods | Forceps with blunt-ended teeth. | Grasping slippery but firm tissues. |
| | Sawtell | Curved, long serrated-ended forceps. | Grasping and tissues during procedures like tonsillectomies and clamping vessels before ligation. |
| Non-Ratcheted Forceps: grasping instruments without any step-locking features. | Debaquey | Non-toothed tweezer-like forceps. | Grasping tissues without causing damage, such as bowel tissue. |
| | Lanes | Toothed, tweezer-like forceps. | Widely used in surgery to grasp many different kinds of tissues (but not the bowel). |
| | Gillies | Toothed, narrow, tweezer-like forceps. | Grasping skin and other tissues. |
| Scissors: shearing, hinged tools used to cut. | Mayo | Heavy-duty, semi-blunt scissors, either curved or straight-edged. | Cutting thick tissues and sutures. |
| | McIndoe | Scissors with a small curved blade and long handles. | Cutting and dissecting tissues. |
| Retractors: instruments to aid exposure by holding cavities open or holding tissues back to expose underlying areas | Langenbeck | An L-tipped hook-shaped retractor in varying sizes. | Separating the edges of wounds and incisions. |
| | Norfolk and Norwich | A self-retaining retractor with blunt ends to mitigate the risk of iatrogenic tissue injury. | Enlarging surgical fields such as in neurosurgical, cardiovascular, and orthopaedic procedures. |
| | Travers | A short-ended, self-retaining retractor. | Separating the edges of small wounds and incisions. |