

A review of palaeontological preparation equipment

Adrian M Doyle, The Natural History Museum, London



- Current and traditional tools
- Modern tools
- Research potential
- The future



- Bulk matrix removal
- Air hammers







Diamond saw cutters







- Air abrasives
- Variable air flow
- Variable powder rate
- Various powders
- Various nozzles







- Air pens or Air scribes
- Coarse and fine nibs
- Variable percussive effect







Flexible drives with rotary or percussion attachments









Electric engravers







- Jet wash
- Fully adjustable spray and water pressure







Ultrasonic tank







Ultrasonic Scaler 'Cavi - jet'







Split - V







- Rotary Grinder
- Two handset unit
- Various and variable speeds
- Various abraisive attachments
- High Torque
- Little vibration







Research

- The surface effect of various tools can be examined by:
- SEM analysis
- Silicone rubber moulds
- Stress and strain gauges



Future work

- Recommendation for specific tools for specific work
- More detailed understanding of the long term stability of prepared specimens



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