

# Universal Curets

FPI Module 17

DEN 1100

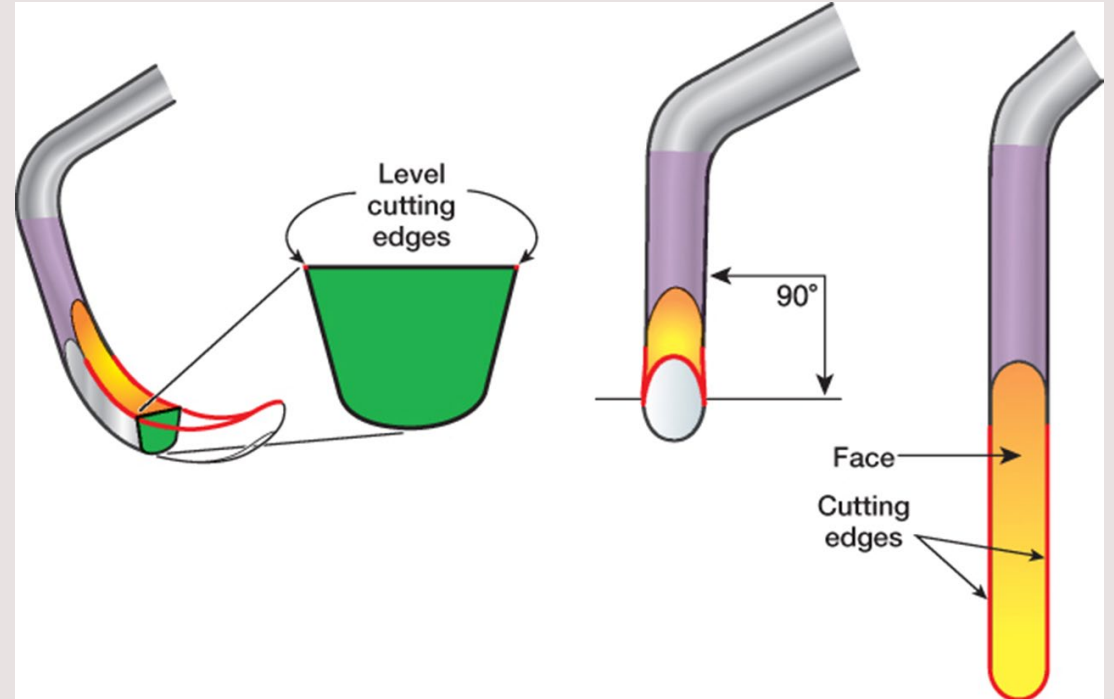
# Universal Curet

- A periodontal instrument is used to remove small- and medium-sized calculus deposits **from the crowns and roots** of the teeth
- This type of curet is called **universal** because it can be used on both anterior and posterior teeth.
- This curet can be used to remove both supragingival and subgingival calculus deposits.



# Unique Design Characteristics

- A rounded back
- A rounded toe
- Two cutting edges per working-end
- Semicircular in cross section
- The **face** is **perpendicular** to the **lower shank**.
- So, the two cutting edges are level with one another.
- Both cutting edges are active



# Choosing the Correct Working-End

Universal curet is a **Double-Ended Universal Instrument**.

There are two methods that can be used to pick the correct working-end for use on a tooth surface:

- **Lower Shank as Visual Clue**  
    **“Posterior = Parallel”**  
    Functional shank **up and over**
- **Inner and Outer Cutting Edges**  
    **Inner** cutting edges: used on **distal surfaces**  
    **Outer** cutting edges: used on **facial, lingual, and mesial surfaces**

Use the one that is easiest for you!





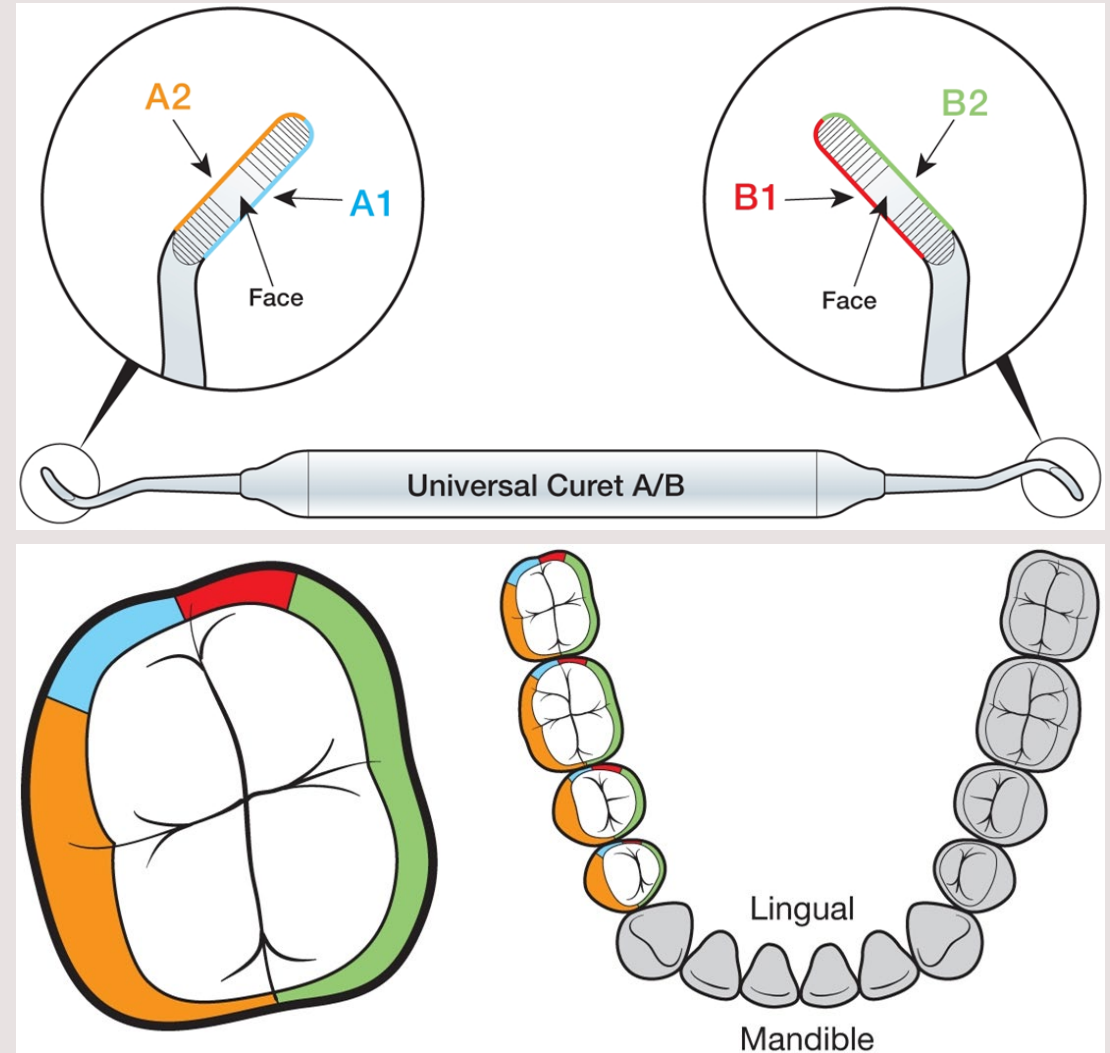
# Correct Angulation

- Correct angulation is achieved by **tilting the lower shank toward the tooth surface**. In this position the face-to-tooth surface angulation is between 70 and 80 degrees.



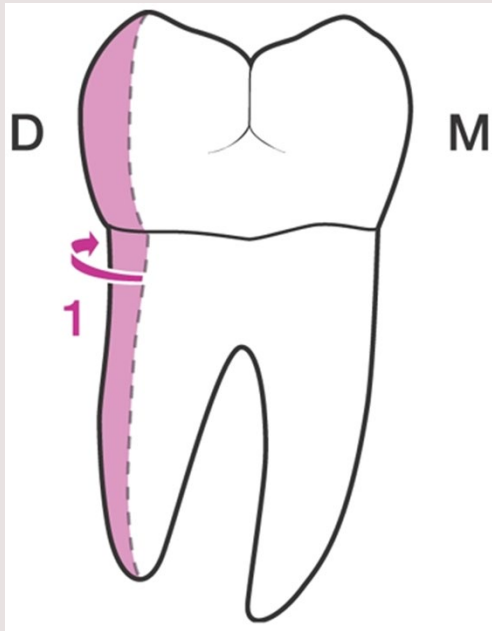
# Application of the cutting edges to posterior teeth

- Two working-ends and four cutting edges
- Both cutting edges of the same working end are used on the **buccal aspect** of a posterior tooth, while **both cutting edges of the opposite working end** are used on the **lingual aspect** of the same tooth.

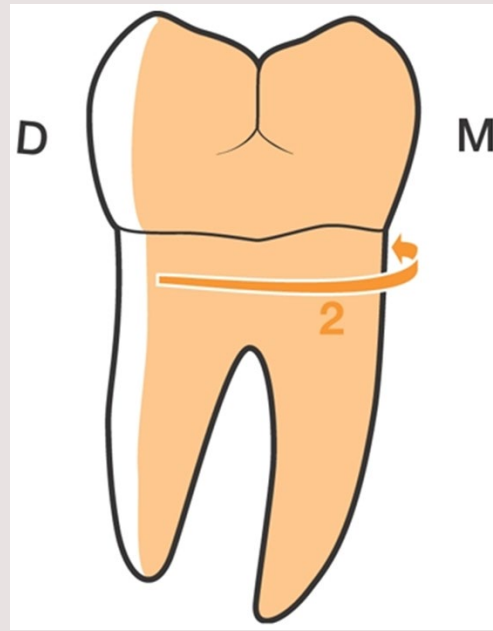


# Sequence

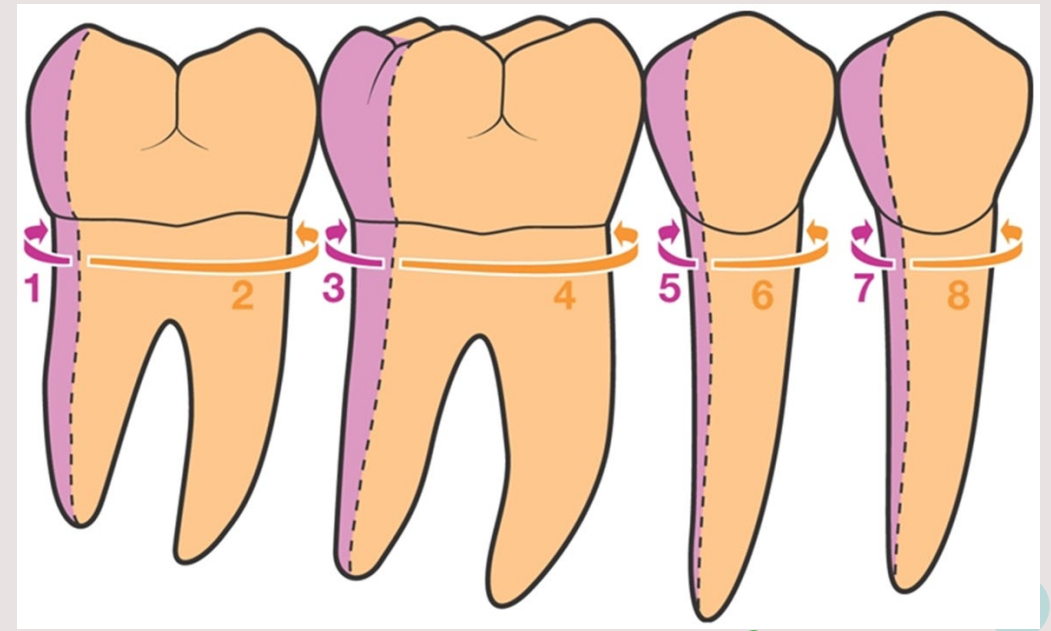
Area 1.  
Distal surface



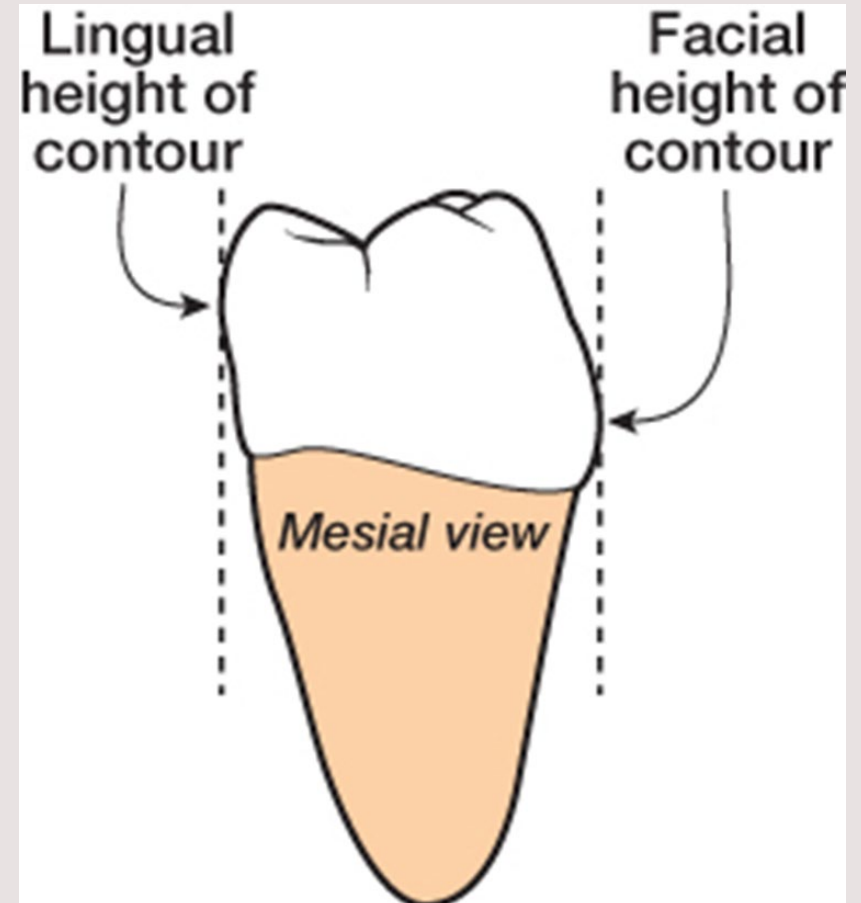
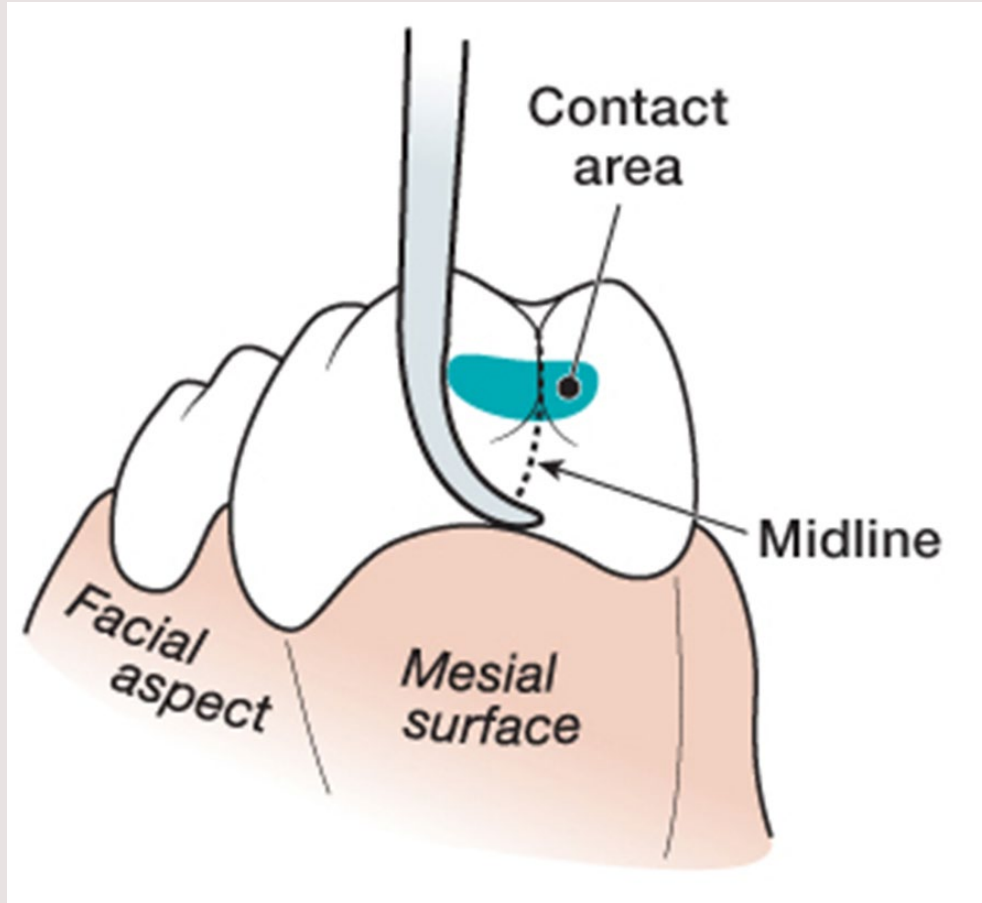
Area 2.  
Distofacial line angle  
forward for facial and  
mesial surfaces



Sequence for Sextant



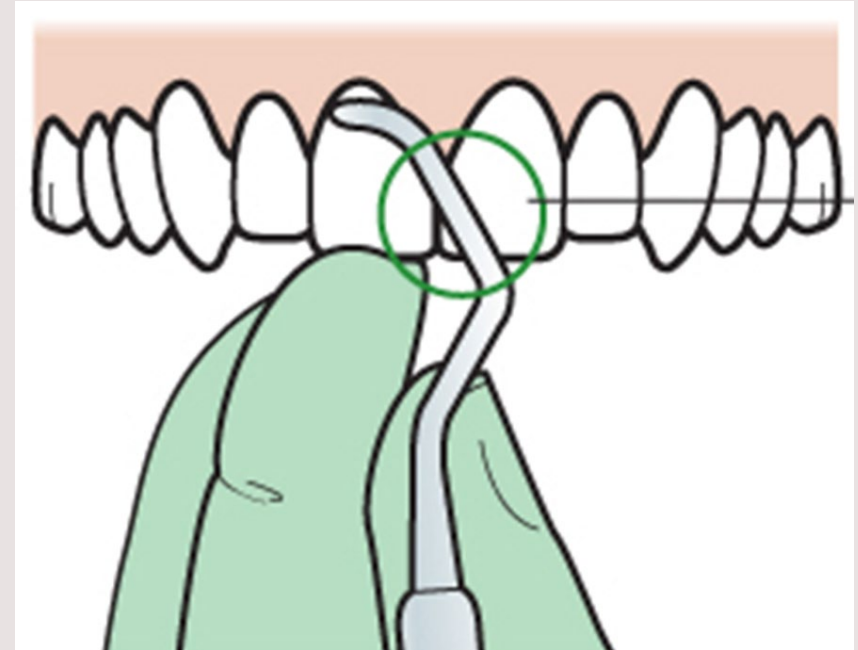
# Technique check





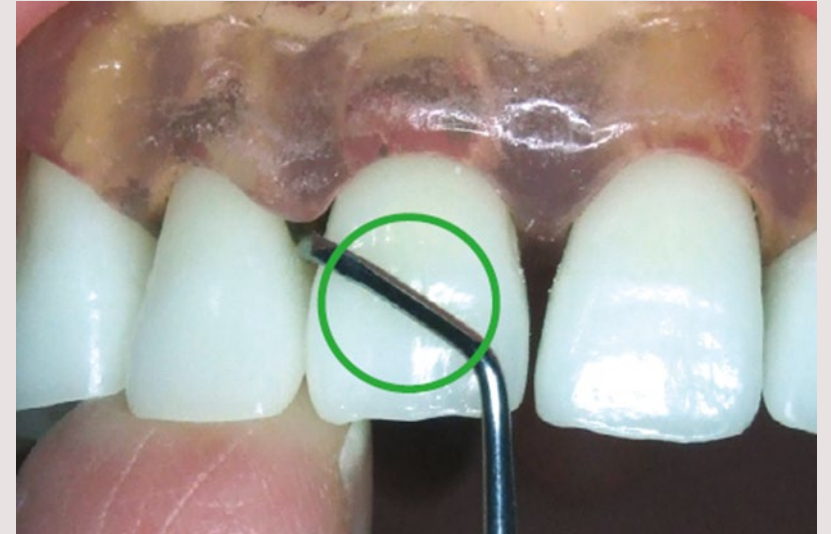
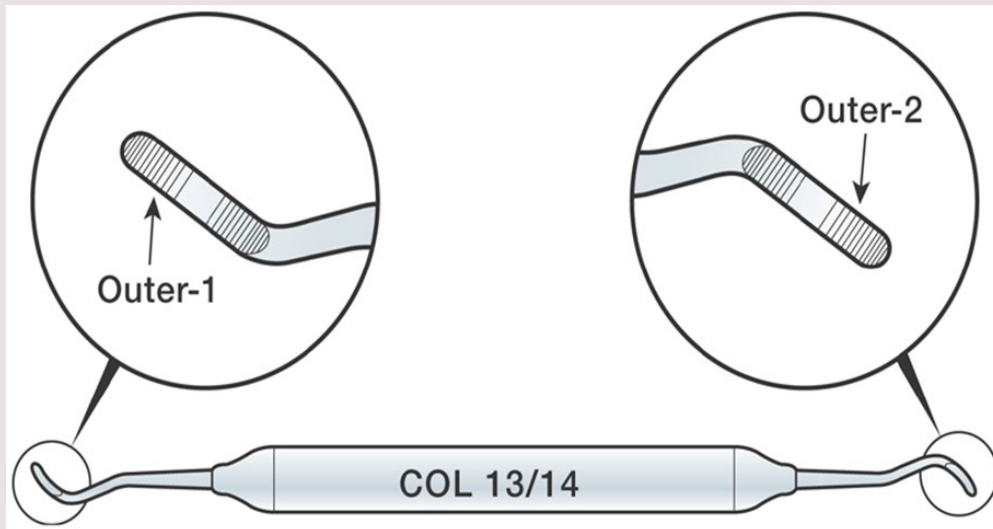
# Use of Universal Curet on Anterior Teeth

- Adapting a universal curet to the anterior teeth requires a technique that is very different from that used with any other instrument.
- The complex shank design of a universal curet, however, sometimes facilitates access to the lingual root surfaces of mandibular anterior teeth.

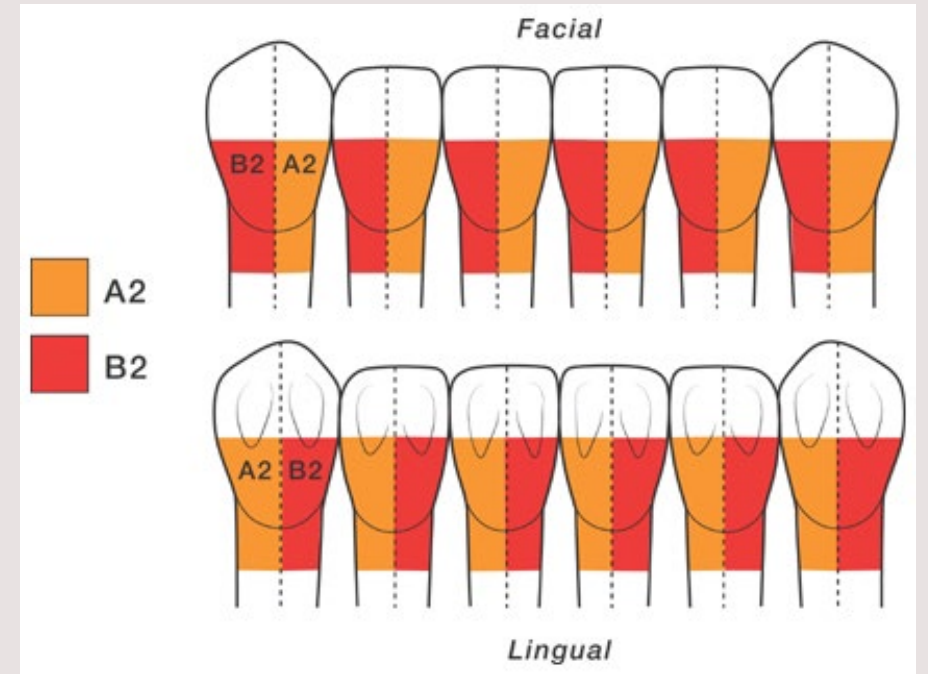
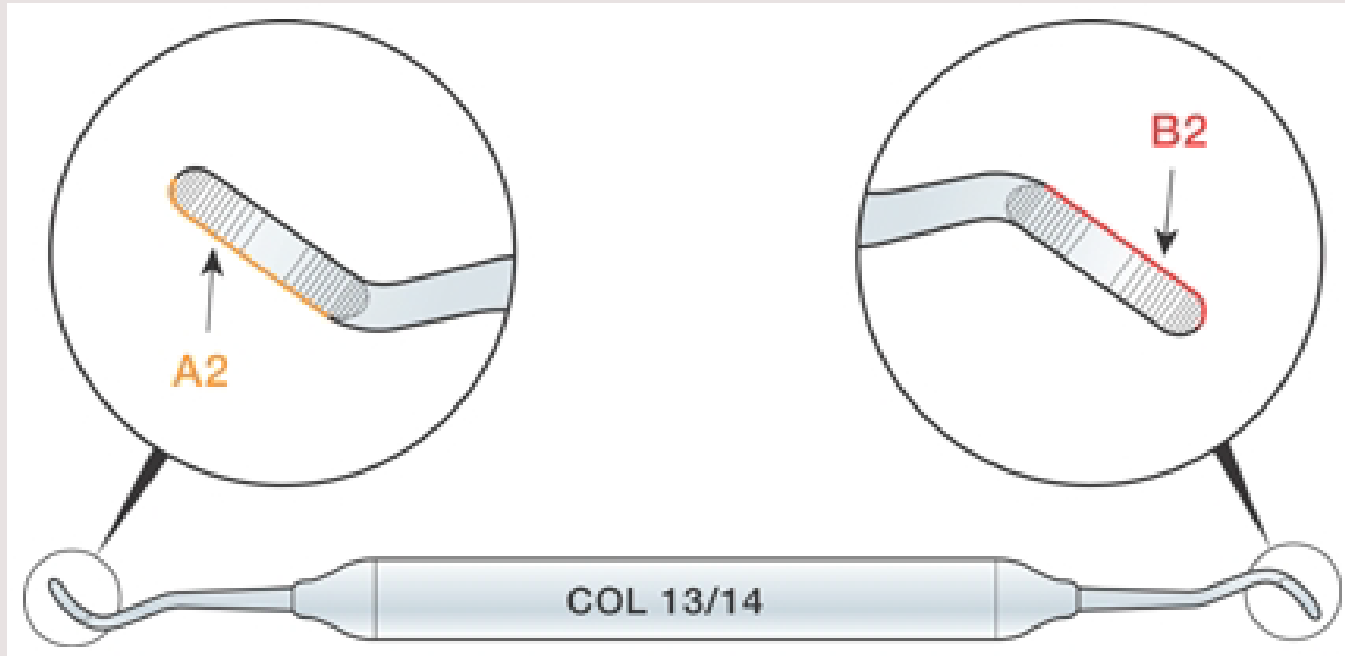


# Selecting Correct Working End

- For **anterior** teeth, the **lower shank** of a universal curet is **across** the tooth surface; this is a visual clue used to select the correct working-end.
- Think: “**Universal curet = anterior across**”
- **Only the outer cutting edges** of a universal curet are used on the anterior teeth.



# Working-End Application



# Failure to Remove Calculus

Beginning clinicians often miss calculus deposits in two areas:

- **Distofacial and distolingual line angles** of posterior teeth
- The **midlines of facial and lingual surfaces** of anterior teeth

**Horizontal strokes** are extremely effective in removing calculus deposits at line angles and midlines.

