

## Questions and answers for the salesmen of our distributors

The topics listed below deal with the most common potential questions related to **Walser® Matrices** and should help to provide the seller with appropriate solutions when it comes to questions from customers or prospective customers.

### 1. Band Heights

#### a) How many types of band heights are available in the **Walser® Matrix System**?

The **Walser® Matrix System** provides bands with a height of 5.0 mm and 6.5 mm and bands with a band height of 8.0 mm for teeth with unilateral deep caries or high crowns.

#### b) I want to fill a prepared tooth with restorative material, but none of my existing **Walser® Matrices** has the appropriate band height.

Do you work with the assortment of 10 matrices? With the assortment of 10, which is also known as “beginners set”, only matrices with band heights of 5.0 mm and 6.5 mm are included. In the assortment of 18 or 25 matrices you will also find appropriate matrices with a band height of 8.0 mm. As a complement to your product range you can order the required matrices with the appropriate band height in refills of 5 matrices.

### 2. Limitations

#### a) I want to build a stump, but no **Walser® O-shape Matrix** holds on this stump or it slides down.

**Walser® Matrices** are ideally suited for the most common treatment methods. However, it is not possible to build a stump because **Walser® O-shape Matrices** automatically tighten around the tooth by their spring tension. If the stump is smaller than the smallest O-shape matrix, this matrix can not tighten around the tooth. Using **Walser® Matrices** after building a stump is possible in most cases.

#### b) I want to make a filling in the buccal or lingual/palatal area, but the matrices don't span completely around the tooth.

Because of their design, the bands of the **Walser® Matrix System** can not be place all the way around the tooth. Thus, treatments in the buccal and lingual/palatal area are limited. But here you can help out with a piece of matrix band, which is automatically maintained by the spring tension of the matrix. If the clips of the matrix are not blocked by the neighboring tooth, they can also be rotated slightly in mesial or distal direction. Thus, the band moves a little bit towards buccal or lingual/palatal direction.

#### c) A matrix band is damaged. The matrix can no longer be used. Can I replace the bands?

The bands of **Walser® Matrices** can not be replaced. If a matrix band can not be applied after repeated use, the matrix needs to be replaced completely.

### 3. Unilateral deep caries

**a) I want to place a filling with unilateral deep caries. But my matrices have two bands each with the same height.**

The Walser® Matrix System offers in addition to the 25 matrices of the assortment of 25 also two special O-shape matrices for unilateral deep caries, the #6c and the #10c. The #6c is the counterpart to #6 and is suitable for premolars, while the #10c is similar to #10 and is suitable for molars. The special matrices are different from the other matrices because they have one band with a height of 8.0 mm and one band with a height of 5.0 mm. Depending on the side where the unilateral deep caries is, the matrix can be used with the longer band on this side.

The special matrices are available in a refill pack of 5 each or in a mixed refill pack of 3x #6c and 2x #10c or contrariwise.

### 4. Last teeth

**a) Does the Walser® Matrix System provide solutions for last teeth?**

Yes, in the assortment of 25 matrices you will find the matrices #23 and #24, which are ideally suited for last teeth and extra large molars. These matrices are unique in the world because they can be placed completely automatically at terminal teeth, they fit disto-cervical and offer distally a complete free working area. Last teeth can not be wedged distally, and that is why other systems producing a surplus after the plugging of the filling material, that needs to be ground away. The matrices #23 and #24 fit automatically disto-cervical. Thus, a grinding away of surplus is eliminated. These special matrices are a huge relief!

The Walser® Matrices #23 and #24 you get either with the order of an assortment of 25 matrices or in addition to your assortment of 10 or 18 matrices in a refill pack of 2 or in a mixed refill pack of each one matrix #23 and #24.

### 5. Filling material

**a) I work with different filling materials. Are there problems with certain materials and the use of Walser® Matrices?**

Walser® Matrices are outstandingly suitable for all kinds of filling materials. They are particularly suitable for composite fillings. Since the matrix bands are made of highly polished stainless steel, they are easy to detach from the filling material.

**b) The matrix is difficultly to remove after curing of the filling.**

The matrix band may had any contact with some primer or adhesive. Before removing the Walser® Matrices the matrix band should be pushed away carefully from the cured filling material with an instrument (plugger or similar, **see photo**) and the matrix should be on maximum tension then. This is important in order not to damage the beautiful contoured filling. Before removing the matrix it should be put under tension in a rocking motion around the sagittal axis. As a result, the bands release easily from the filling material.



## 6. Handling

### a) I bought a Walser® Matrix System but I'm not at all happy with the matrices.

Unlike most typical matrix systems Walser® Matrices have a completely independent function. Therefore, it requires some practice, especially in dealing with the matrix forceps because this works in reverse as a normal forceps. We recommend using the O-shape matrices for the beginning. Even the exact studying of the instruction is an important requirement for the correct application of Walser® Matrices.

### b) The matrix can not be entirely placed in the interdental space.

The matrix should be carefully “guided” into the interdental spaces without exerting too much pressure. With the X-shape matrix you need maximum tension until the two matrix bands lying to each other. Span the O-shape matrix with maximum tension until the two matrix bands have the required width by the parallel displacement. Place the matrix over the tooth and invert in the interdental spaces. Upon reaching the papilla loosen the forceps slightly so the bands attach themselves on the neck of the tooth. Then push the matrix in the corresponding occlusal direction.

It should be ensured that the matrix is in no way forced to pass in a discontinuous interdental space with violence, because the matrix band can be deformed; this can lead to a perforation (crack) of the matrix band or to a break open of the welding points (overloading). A perforation may further cause the entirely tearing of the matrix. If Walser® Matrices are torn or very wrinkled, they must be discarded and replaced by new ones. If a matrix band is bent, usually because it has been forced through a discontinuous interdental space, you can smooth out the band with a flat-nosed pliers or the handle of a mouth mirror. If the band is not prepared like this, it can damage the filling when removing the matrix.

### c) There are so many different matrices. I'm not sure which matrix I can use for which treatments.

In the user manual you will find a list of all matrix sizes and their areas of application and a subdivision into the respective X, O, XF, OF- and ON-shapes. When ordering a Walser® Assortment we always include one dental chart on which one sees, which matrices are suitable for which teeth. This chart can be ordered also individually if needed. Everything else will be obtained by experience and practice, since it can not always be said which matrix is the right one because of the different nature of the teeth. Additional information and advices are available on our web page [www.walser-dental.com](http://www.walser-dental.com).

### d) Where is the difference between X- and O-shape Matrices?

The use of X-shape matrices is intended for two-surface fillings with existing interdental space. By mounting the matrix with the Walser® Matrix Forceps the bands move toward to each another and are tensioned to the maximum until the two matrix bands touching each other. This makes them glide easily through interdental spaces. By releasing the Walser® Forceps when reaching the papilla, the bands fit each cervical automatically. X-shape matrices are available for premolars and molars and for front teeth.

O-shape matrices operate exactly in the opposite way: They are designed for MOD restorations. By mounting the matrix forceps, the bands move away from each other and the matrix can be slipped with proper width over the tooth. By releasing the forceps, the matrix adapts automatically on the conical tooth shape. O-shape matrices are available for premolars and molars, the special matrices for unilateral deep caries, but also for front teeth and terminal teeth.

**e) I have stretched a X-shape matrix with the matrix forceps, but the bands do not have contact to each other.**

Possible causes may be that you do not use the original Walser® Matrix Forceps. Matrix forceps of other manufacturers often do not have the necessary span width to stretch the bands of the X-shape matrices so that the bands touch each other. This leads to the fact that you can not apply X-shape matrices. The Walser® Matrix Forceps was developed especially for these matrices and has an extra large span width. A second reason could be that your Walser® Matrix Forceps is bent. In this case, we recommend to order a new matrix forceps.

**f) I have spanned a matrix with the Walser® Matrix Forceps. The matrix slipped over the forceps and is now defective.**

When spanning the Walser® Matrices, it is important that the clips of the matrix lock into the bottom notch of the front of the forceps. Only then the matrix gets hold appropriately and can not slip over. Should the matrix once resolve yet, there is a second notch that prevents the "slip over" of the matrix on the forceps. If the matrix is spanned directly in the second notch and slides upward, it can possibly no longer be maintained and can be damaged to the inability to use. In some cases, the matrices can still be used, but this must be checked in individual cases.

**g) I want to create a MOD filling, but the matrix slips from the tooth or does not hold onto the tooth.**

The selected Walser® Matrix must show with its number occlusally. (The matrices are labeled with a number 1 to 25 on the side of the springs). Perhaps you don't see a number, then the matrix is probably twisted around 180 degrees and the number is on the bottom. Just turn the matrix so that you can see the number occlusal. From this point on the matrix gets applied with the matrix forceps.

Or maybe you accidentally placed a X-shape matrix without having to span it with the forceps so that the bands fit tightly together. The X-shape matrices are only suitable for two-surface fillings and existing interdental space. Therefore, always use an O-shape matrix for MOD restorations. But perhaps your chosen an O-shape matrix that is too big and can not tighten around the tooth by itself. Then select an O-shape matrix with a smaller size.

## 7. Wedges

**a) I've heard that Walser® Matrices don't need any wedges. Is that correct?**

O-shape Walser® Matrices seldomly need wedges, because they adapt automatically around the tooth. Wedges are in some cases necessary to get a better contact point.

With the X-shape you have to use wedges in every case, if not you won't get a strong contact point.

**b) I use ...-Wedges. Are there any recommendations for using wedges in connection with Walser® Matrices?**

If wedges are needed, we recommend wooden wedges, as they swell and additionally provide an even better separation of the teeth.

**c) How can I use wedges in connection with Walser® Matrices?**

Walser® Matrices are easy to use with wedges. The O-shape matrices have a built-in wedge holder. Simply insert the wedges between clips and legs of the spring (**see photo**). To remove the wedges, simply span the matrix with the forceps, then the wedges usually slide out automatically.



With the X-shape matrices just place the wedge centered between the two bands (see photo).



## 8. Contact point

### a) I work with X-shape matrices and have problems with the contact point.

Although Walser® Matrices apply by its spring force around the tooth, we recommend the use wooden wedges for the separation of the teeth when working with X-shape matrices, as the pure spring force of the matrix is not sufficient to separate the teeth. Place the wedge as shown in the **fig. here**, far between the bands of the matrix.

### b) Can I use a ring to separate the teeth to get a good contact point when I'm working with Walser® Matrices?

Some of our users also use separation rings when using Walser® Matrices.

On <http://www.walser-dental.com/en/professional-reports/clinical-cases/> you will also find solutions for open questions around the use of Walser® Matrices and the subject of the contact point. Here you will find Testimonials of users:

<http://www.walser-dental.com/en/professional-reports/testimonials/>

## 9. Assortments and Refill Packs

### a) I would like to work with Walser® Matrices. What types of assortments are available?

We recommend the assortment of 25 with forceps. This means 25 matrices, a sterilization tray plus the Walser® Matrix Forceps. With that, almost all application areas are covered. The smaller assortment is the assortment of 18. The sterilization tray is the same as in the assortment of 25. Through the acquisition of matrices in refill packs the tray can be fitted completely. So, for example, the matrices #23 and #24 for terminal teeth can be purchased in addition.

To try out, the assortment of 10 is just the right one. These 10 matrices cover in a perfect way all claims on a matrix in the premolar and molar area.

### b) Are there single matrices available for testing?

Walser® Matrices are available in refills of 5 matrices (exception: #23, #24 in a pack of 2). With that you get five or two pieces of one certain matrix size. If you want to try Walser® Matrices, in any case, you need the Walser® Matrix Forceps. Therefore, it makes more sense to start trying out directly with an assortment of 10. Then you have the same 10 different matrices for multiple applications and the forceps is with it.

### c) What is the advantage of a Walser® Matrices assortment compared to individual matrices?

You have different matrices for many applications available ready to hand. Each matrix is usable multiple times and can be sterilized. In addition, the original Walser® Matrix Forceps is included in each assortment.

### d) A matrix is used or no longer functional. What can I do?

You can order all matrices in refills. The matrices #23 and #24 you get in refills of 2, all other matrices in refills of 5. Additional matrices, which are not included in your assortment, you can subsequently order in refills to complete your assortment. The refill packs of 5 can be stored in your drawer. You can simply add the missing matrices on your tablet and keep the rest of the matrices in the refill box.

## 10. Sterilization

### a) Walser® Matrices are usable multiple times. How do they get sterilized?

You can sterilize Walser® Matrices as other instruments and commercially available matrices. The forceps and the tray can be sterilized, too. If you want to sterilize the matrices on the matrix tray, please make sure that the pressure is not too high and that the temperature in the autoclave is not higher than 140 °C.

### b) The matrix is very dirty after the treatment and does not become clean again even after the sterilization.

We recommend to wash up your Walser® Matrices immediately after use under running water. To make sure that blood residue etc. does not dry, the matrices should be placed in water or disinfectant solution for some time. If a matrix was used for cement or composite fillings, it should be carefully released from corresponding residues (also a scalpel can be used, **see photo**). Otherwise the bands become rough, which might harm the filling when removing the matrix.



### c) Can I remove the bands before the sterilization and reassemble the matrix again afterwards?

The bands of Walser® Matrices are secured to the matrix and can not be removed or replaced. You can sterilize the matrix as a whole and then use it repeatedly.

