Frequently Asked Whip Mix Articulator Questions

1. Why should I use a Whip Mix Articulator?

*Simple!* The Whip Mix Articulator System is extremely easy to use. It is not intimidating for dentists who may be thinking about using a Semi-Adjustable Articulator. The simplicity and speed with which the necessary registrations are obtained and transferred to the Whip Mix Articulator (using the Whip Mix Face-Bow) enable the operator to accomplish corrective and restorative dentistry with greater precision than ever before; and without the use of expensive equipment and more time consuming techniques.

*Affordable!* The Whip Mix Semi-Adjustable Articulator and Facebow System is one of the most affordable and reliable systems on the market.

*Durable!* Utilizing parts made of anodized aluminum, phosphor bronze or stainless steel insures a maintenance-free use. With over 40 years of manufacturing experience, the Whip Mix Articulator has established itself as an instrument of choice for the majority of undergraduate dental education programs in the US and Canada.

*Interchangeable!* The Whip Mix 2000, 3000, and 4000 Series Articulators have the “ACCUMOUNT” Mounting System. This makes it possible to interchange mounted casts between individual series of articulators without the loss of accuracy. The accuracy of interchangeability is reported in the Journal of Prosthodontics, vol 9, No 3 (September), 2000.

2. What type of design are Whip Mix Articulators?

All Whip Mix Semi-Adjustable Articulators feature the ARCON design. ARCON is a contraction of the words for articulator and condyle. In an ARCON designed articulator the mechanical fossa is fixed relative to the maxillary cast, making the instrument more anatomically correct. Because of their ARCON design, Whip Mix Semi-Adjustable Articulators are ideal for the study of occlusion and the movements of the temporomandibular joint.
3. What features do Whip Mix Articulators possess, and how do I know which articulator model is right for me?

This will depend on what you need your articulator to do. Whip Mix offers several models that offer different features depending on the extensive requirements for the patient being treated, needs of the dental laboratory, or the needs of the dentist.

The Model #8500 Articulator, an open fossa design, features a straight tracking condylar element, progressive side shift setting, and adjustable intercondylar width. The intercondylar width can be set at the following distances: 96mm (small), 110mm (medium), and 124mm (large). This distance is determined by the marks found on the face-bow during the face-bow registration procedure. This articulator is not interchangeable.

The Model #2240 Articulator, an open fossa design, features a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, curved emenitia with a ¾” radius, fixed Bennett angle set at 7½ degrees, has immediate side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 2000 series.

The Model #2340 Articulator, an open fossa design, features a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, straight condylar element with progressive side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 2000 series.

The Model #3040 Articulator, a closed tracking design, features a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, progressive side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 3000 series.

The Model #3140 Articulator, has a modified tracking design, features a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, progressive side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 3000 series.

The Model #4640 Articulator, offers the most visibility of any Whip Mix Articulator available on the market. This is made possible by a design that eliminated the crossbar between the upright posts. The Model #4640 Articulator features a closed tracking design, a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, progressive side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 4000 series.

The Model #4641 Articulator, like the Model #4640, offers the most visibility of any Whip Mix Articulator available on the market. The Model #4641 Articulator has a modified tracking design, a fixed intercondylar width of 110mm, progressive side shift capability and is interchangeable within the 4000 series.

All Whip Mix Semi-Adjustable Articulators are also available with the Quick Mount Magnet System.
4. Are Whip Mix Articulators interchangeable and why is having an articulator that is interchangeable important to me?

Yes. With the exception of the original Model #8500 Articulator, all Whip Mix Semi-Adjustable Articulators feature the “ACCUMOUNT” system of interchangeability which makes them interchangeable within like series. The accuracy of the interchangeability is reported in the Journal of Prosthodontics, vol 9, No 3 (September), 2000.

Cost savings. There is no need to purchase several articulators for your practice/laboratory. Using an articulator that is interchangeable allows you to exchange mounted casts between like articulators without loss of accuracy. Only the mounted casts need to be sent between the doctor’s office and the laboratory. There is an additional savings in shipping cost for the weight of the articulator being sent back and forth between the doctor’s office and the laboratory. Finally you would eliminate repairs that are a result of the articulator being damage in transit between the office and laboratory.

5. How do I know if my Whip Mix Articulator is interchangeable?

Any articulator with the “ACCUMOUNT” plate offers interchangeability. This can be identified by a

2 ½ " circular plate that is attached to the lower member of the articulator.

6. Do I have to program my Whip Mix Articulator on each case or can I just use average settings?

Average settings will accommodate most treatment cases. Although, you do have the convenience of customizing your settings if you have taken lateral check bites. Whip Mix uses average settings of a 15° Bennett Angle and a 30° Protrusive incline; or condylar inclination.

7. When would I use an Immediate Side Shift (I.S.S.) setting?

In some patients the timing of the Bennett movement occurs early in the latero-trusive movement. When this occurs a shift is seen even before the condyle begins its translation from the fossa. This is called Immediate Side Shift. Accommodating the patient’s side shift movement will offer more freedom of lateral movement while the
patient is in centric relation. It is important that the laboratory technician program the articulator to ensure the movement replicates the patient’s condition. The Whip Mix Model #2240 offers the Immediate Side Shift capability.

8. I have an old Whip Mix 8500 Articulator, what do the newer models such as the 2000, 3000, and 4000 Series have to offer?

The most significant difference between the Model 8500 and all other models is the interchangeability feature. In addition to being interchangeable, the 2000, 3000, and 4000 Series Articulators offer increased interframe distance and more lingual visibility. For more detailed information on each series, please select from the appropriate link.

9. Do I need to use a facebow to use an articulator?

No you do not however, it would be best to provide as much detailed, patient information as possible to reproduce the patient’s ideal occlusion.

10. Do all Whip Mix Articulators accept a face-bow?

All of our semi-adjustable articulators accept direct and indirect face-bow registrations.

11. What accessories are available for the Whip Mix Articulator?

Whip Mix accessories enhance the capabilities of the Whip Mix Articulator systems and provide a wide range of options for specialized needs. For a complete description of available accessories go the products page then click on the articulator section. Once you have selected the articulator section click on the accessories.

12. What are the advantages of using the Quick Mount Magnetic Mounting System?

The most notable result is saving time and money. The Quickmount Magnetic System allows the quick, precise and easy placement and removal of mounted casts on many of the most popular semi-adjustable and fully adjustable articulators.
13. Can I convert my articulator over to the magnetic system? If so how?

Many Semi-Adjustable Articulators on the market can be retrofitted to use the Quick Mount Magnetic System. Refer to the selection chart on the Quick Mount Magnetic System by going to the link above to determine if your articulator can be converted.

To convert your articulator to the Quick Mount Magnetic System follow the directions on the Quick Mount Magnetic System page under product resources entitled “Converting to Quick Mount Magnetic System”.

14. Do you have an accessory that allows me to make a custom incisal guide table?

Yes, the Dovetail Incisal Block. During the wax-up procedure on the mounted stone casts, the laboratory technician or dentist may have to move the casts through frequent excursive movements on the articulator to check the positioning of the wax to ensure ideal occlusion is achieved. During this procedure wearing away of the stone casts is likely. To prevent this unwanted wear, a custom incisal guide table made out of auto polymerizing acrylic resin should be fabricated either on the flat plastic Incisal Guide Table that comes with the articulator or on our metal Dovetail Incisal Block. Go to the link above to view the Dovetail Incisal Block.

15. How can I tell if my Whip Mix Articulator is out of alignment?

Fortunately Whip Mix Articulators are extremely durable. With normal care and maintenance you will probably never need to have it re-calibrated. However, in the unfortunate event that it gets damaged due to being dropped or knocked off the work bench, you may need to send it back for re-calibration.

A quick and easy way to check for damage would be to do the following: look for any parts on the articulator that appear bent (i.e. brass face-bow mounting pins, incisal guide pin, or incisal guide pin screw). Set the right and left side shift guides to the 10 degree mark on the Model #2340, 3000, and 4000 Series Articulators, and set the side shift guide to the zero mark on the Model #2240 Articulator; release the centric latch and elastic straps if available on your model; check to see if there is any side-to-side movement of the upper member. If you detect any movement it is possible that damage has occurred.
Another way to verify if damage has occurred is to remove the plastic incisal guide table from the articulator. With the side shift guides locked in place as described above, lock the centric latch to secure the upper member. Then, lower the incisal pin slightly and secure it. Check to see if the incisal guide pin will slide freely through the slot on the lower member of the articulator. If the pin hits the lower member or rubs the inside of the slot, this may be an indication that the articulator is out of alignment. We recommended that you send your instrument to Whip Mix for repair and re-calibration.

16. If my Whip Mix Articulator is out of alignment, what do I need to do to have it fixed?

If you feel your articulator has been damaged please call our customer service line at 800-626-5651. Our Customer Service Representatives will be happy to assist you with our repair process. Have the model and serial number available with a brief description of the problem ready to give to the 

Customer Service Representative. You will be issued a Return Authorization Number (RMA) which will be used to track your articulator when it arrives.

Frequently Asked Facebow Questions

1. I have an older Whip Mix Facebow. Have you made any changes?

Improvements have been made to Whip Mix Facebows. Two design changes you will notice are: a new soft plastic nose piece and a fixed elastic band which provides spring to the ear-bow halves. Not only is the new soft plastic nose piece more comfortable to the patient, the contour of the nose piece fits the patients nose more accurately.

Our newest Facebow model is the #9155 with the Quick Lock Toggle. It is universal in that it adapts to any Whip Mix Facebow for direct or indirect mounting. It is easier to use than the other facebow styles because of the single toggle, easy to place bite-fork, and universal joint.
2. What are the advantages of using an Indirect Mounting Facebow?

Indirect Mounting offers you increased stability when mounting, greater access to your cast, and parallel orientation of the upper and lower members of the articulator. Additionally, there is no need to have several face-bows for your practice. Having additional Transfer Assemblies will allow you to utilize your face-bow immediately after proper asepsis.

3. I think I have an older Direct Mounting Facebow; can I convert it to an Indirect Mounting Facebow?

Yes, converting your Direct Mounting Face-Bow to an Indirect Mounting Facebow is very easy.

You will need the following Conversion Package:

- 1 Transfer Base Assembly (#9176A) or (#9176Q) if you have a magnetic mounting system.
- 1 Cross Bar (#8679) and 1 Transfer Assembly.

For additional information regarding indirect mounting and conversion of your existing Whip Mix face-bow select the Indirect Mounting link.

4. How can I prevent my Facebow fork from flexing while mounting the maxillary cast?

Many clinicians use a Facebow Fork Support while mounting the maxillary cast.

The Facebow Fork Support attaches to the lower frame in place of the lower mounting plate. Its cross arm is raised to gently contact the under-surface of the face-bow fork to prevent flexing of the fork.

5. Can Whip Mix Facebows be used with other articulator systems?

Yes, you can adapt the Whip Mix #9185 (metal) or the #9285 (plastic) Indirect Mounting Facebow to the Hanau Wide-Vue Articulator using the #9176A Transfer Base Assembly and the #9186 Facebow Adaptor.
6. What accessories are available for the Whip Mix Facebow?

There are numerous accessories that can be purchased and used with the Quick Mount Facebows. For a complete list and description of their use, please visit whipmix.com.

For questions not listed on this help page, or for further clarifications on answers provided, please contact Whip Mix Customer Service 800-626-5651