**STEP SEVEN**

When an acceptable level for the back of the occlusal plane has been established, draw a line on the cast from cuspid point backward (Figure 6).

**STEP EIGHT**

Repeat for the opposite side.

**STEP ONE**

Remove the upper cast from the articulator.

**STEP TWO**

Insert a flag onto the SOPA base (Figure 1). Each flag has two sides (patient’s right and left) and space for patient information such as name, date and other data. The graph is in millimeter increments. Tighten lock screw.

**STEP THREE**

Place the SOPA on the upper bow sliding the key into the articulator slot (Figure 2) as shown (Figure 3-A & B). Tighten the thumb screws.

**STEP FOUR**

The compass has a standard radius of 4”. This setting is standard for evaluating the final cusp tip heights on an ideal lower occlusal plane. Note: Millimeter adjustments (+ or -10mm). Use these only for measuring the amount of tooth reduction desired when planning restorative cases.

**STEP FIVE**

Touch the compass lead (C) to the tip of the lower cuspid. Position the compass point (D) on the center line (for the 4” radius) of the SOPA flag (Figure 4). This automatically establishes the position for the compass point in correct relation to the condyle. Note: If the cuspid is missing, it should be waxed in. Keep the height in harmony with the remaining anterior teeth.

**STEP SIX**

Arc the compass lead to the back molar (Figure 5). This establishes the optimum occlusal plane height for the posterior teeth. Note: If the molar is missing, the occlusal plane can be scribed on a wax rim.

If the back of the occlusal plane needs to be raised or lowered, return the compass lead to the cuspid tip. Holding that position, arc the compass point forward or backward on the SOPA flag along the same horizontal line while using the compass lead as the pivot. (Move the compass point anterior for a higher occlusal plane or posterior for a lower occlusal plane.)

As long as the pointer maintains contact on the width of the flag, the occlusal plane will be acceptable. If an acceptable plane cannot be established, the casts may not be properly mounted in relation to the condylar axis.
STEP SEVEN
When an acceptable level for the back of the occlusal plane has been established, draw a line on the cast from cuspid point backward (Figure 6).

Figure 6

STEP EIGHT
Repeat for the opposite side.