



SocketCone FAQ's

- 1. Are SocketCones Bulletproof?** NO, but they are reinforced with Kevlar™ fiber.
- 2. Will SC's stick?** Only to cloth and itself. They are treated with a non-stick coating inside and out which helps the cone from sticking to itself if accidentally touched while molding. A separator, petroleum jelly, is strongly recommended when shaping.
- 3. How will I know when the plastic is ready to mold?** When heating the SC for the first time, give this step your full attention. It takes 3-5 minutes depending on your heat source. A TIMER will help establish consistent results. DO NOT OVERHEAT! If it feels too hot to handle with bare hands or is so 'floppy' you can't work with it easily, you have heated it too long. The SC should be pliable and easy to mold.
- 4. Which sized SC do I use?** Follow the chart for a basic starting point. Remember that a SC that is too large will be saggy and need to be stretched to fit — thinning the socket walls is not recommended.
- 5. What hardware can be used with the SC?** We currently offer 2 distal end adapter kits to adapt to standard 4-hole plates and the 'hockey puck' style shuttle locks.
- 6. Is it bad to overheat the SC?** YES! Overheating is basically the only way to ruin a SC, otherwise they are nearly foolproof. Do NOT try to heat them in a 350° oven.
- 7. How can the SC be modified?** A heat gun is the easiest and most conservative method, you can grind the material and buff with standard tools if you wish. Cool with a wet sponge or water mist after applying heat and modifying. A torch is NOT recommended.
- 8. How do I finish the trimlines?** The best method is to grind with a small toothed metal bit and buff. To smooth even more, heat trimlines and smooth with wet fingers.
- 9. Can I increase the rigidity of the SC?** Yes, simply wrap with some fiberglass casting tape. You may be able to use a larger sized cone that doesn't thin out as much when molding.

10. Will the SC melt in hot weather? NO, not likely. If the patient is wearing the SC, the body regulates the heat and keeps it under melting temp. IF LEFT IN A HOT CAR IN SUMMER, it will probably melt!

11. Can the SC be used more than once? The SC material can be heated many times without altering its characteristics. Once the hardware has been attached, the SC should not be remolded.

12. Can I glue pads to the SC? Yes, standard adhesives work well.

13. Can I rivet to the SC material? Yes, using standard tools.

14. Can the SC crack in cold weather. No.

15. Can the SC be used with a suction system? The SC can be used with a number of different hardware systems, call to check for compliance.

16. Can the SC be used with a pressurized or vacuum casting system? Yes, as long as a separator like petroleum jelly is used to avoid sticking.

17. Can a SC be molded over a plaster cast? Yes, coat with petroleum jelly and mold by hand, no need for vacuum.

18. Why do I have to use a Shrink Sleeve as a separator? The Shrink Sleeve is designed for use with the SC. They are both easy to use and perform far better than plastic wrap, stretch wrap or PE bags.

19. Can I change the angle of the distal hardware? Yes, while molding the SC and the material is still warm. Once it has cooled, it is best to reheat the entire SC rather than spot heat and displace the distal end.

20. Are there different colors? Not yet, but as the demand increases, we have a full range of pigments that can be offered.

21. Can a SC be used on an athlete? We do not recommend them for high activity use, until more comprehensive clinical trials are completed.

22. Why do I cast over a 3mm liner and fit with a 6mm liner? When casting normally over a liner or sock, you will achieve a 12 ply fit. One ply equals .4mm, therefore, cast over 3mm less than the final liner thickness. You are free to, **and encouraged**, to adjust the lay-up procedure to your own casting technique for best results.

Evaluate the ply fit, prior to attaching the hardware, the SC can be remolded to fine tune the ply fit to the desired result.