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## HANDY BONE-GRASPING FORCEPS

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In the carrying out of thoracoplasties of various types, it has been found desirable at times to have bone-grasping forceps with which to hold firmly ribs which are being stripped from a densely infiltrated or adherent periosteal bed. On other occasions in orthopaedic work, such as holding an Albee graft for shaping, the usual Ferguson lion-jaw bone-grasping forceps have not proved adequate, nor have the large Kocher forceps been capable of holding the graft without springing or permitting the graft to slip. As a result, the bone-grasping forceps shown in Figure 1 (left) were designed by the author and produced in the machine shop at Glen Lake Sanatorium.

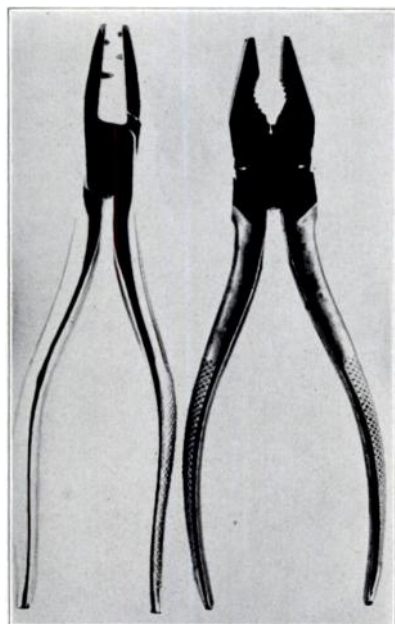


FIG. 1

Broad-nosed heavy-duty pliers, shown in Figure 1 (right), were ground down on an emery wheel, so that the head and nose of the pliers took on the shape shown on the left side of the photograph. The shape of the handles was changed by forging, and several small teeth were set into the jaws as illustrated. Two teeth were placed toward the extremity of one jaw and the other teeth were set in the other jaw nearer the center. The teeth vary in length to allow the firm grasp of even a very thin rib when the forceps are closed. The pins or teeth were made from small twist drills and were forced into drill holes in the jaws of the forceps, after which they were sharpened with a file.

These forceps have been found extremely useful in handling ribs and bone grafts which were either too small to be held securely by the Ferguson lion-jaw forceps or too large to be held firmly by the large Kocher forceps. They have the added advantage over the Ferguson lion-jaw forceps of possessing a rather slender nose, so that they can be used in close quarters.

This instrument can be constructed by a capable machinist at a relatively small cost and, after being plated, makes a valuable addition to the orthopaedic surgeon's equipment.

The author is indebted to Mr. Allen Dean for his technical assistance in constructing this instrument.