Endo Stitch™
suturing instrument intracorporeal & extracorporeal knot tying manual
This manual will help you to gain an understanding of basic intracorporeal & extracorporeal knot tying techniques using the Covidien Endo Stitch Suturing Instrument. The manual includes instructions for use of the instrument, as well as instructions for loading and unloading the suture disposable loading units. By following the step-by-step instructions, and with just a little practice, this manual will enable you to master these time-saving techniques within a very short time. Refer to the package insert for complete product details.

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The Covidien Endo Stitch suturing instrument is designed to make endoscopic suturing and the tying of intracorporeal & extracorporeal knots easy. The Endo Stitch suturing device, with its integral needle and suture, will make it possible for you to undertake most endoscopic procedures without the necessity of having to struggle with loose needles and suture. A wide range of available suture materials makes the Endo Stitch instrument suitable for use in most endoscopic procedures requiring suturing.

All needles and sutures are housed in convenient to use cartridges, ready for instant loading.

The shaft of the Endo Stitch 10mm instrument is 36cm in length to provide enhanced access to the tissue site.

The large 4mm tissue gap, combined with the jaw’s ability to compress tissue, allows the Endo Stitch instrument to accommodate a wide variety of tissue thicknesses, varying between thin, delicate tissue, to tissue thickness requiring the application of a 4.8mm staple.

The jaws of the Endo Stitch instrument are 4mm wide. To further assist in placing the needle as close to the tissue as possible, the needle is offset to one side of the jaws. The needle is closest to the edge of the jaw that is on the side of the instrument bearing the Auto suture logo.

The needle which is used with the Endo Stitch instrument is taper point on both ends. This double-pointed needle, utilizing taper points, assists in penetrating tissue.
Instructions for use

Schematic View and Nomenclature

1 - Jaws
2 - Shaft
3 - Toggle Levers
4 - Reloading Buttons
5 - Arrows
6 - Handles

Product Description

The handles of the instrument are designed to fit comfortably into the user’s hands.

The handle section consists of two toggle levers, two black unloading buttons (one on the front and one on the back) and two handles.

The needle is passed back and forth between the instrument’s jaws by completely squeezing the handles and activating either toggle lever forward or backward. (If a suture and needle are not loaded into the instrument, the suture can be loaded into the jaws by following the loading instructions).

The handles are fully squeezed to close the jaws and are released to open the jaws.

Adjust the amount that the jaws are opened by simply varying the amount that the handles are squeezed. This allows for enhanced access to tight operative sites.
Before inserting the instrument into the trocar, the jaws must be placed in the closed, neutral position.

To align the jaws in the neutral position, the handles are completely squeezed, and the toggle levers are aligned with the arrows on the instrument body. The jaws are now ready to be inserted into the trocar. Once the instrument has been inserted through the trocar, the handles are squeezed and either toggle lever is moved completely forward or backward.

The handles are then released and the jaws are opened, exposing the needle. The instrument is now ready to place a stitch.

To pass the needle through tissue, the jaws of the Endo Stitch instrument must first be placed in the open position (i.e., either toggle lever is activated to the forward position).

Note: The needle is always in the jaw on the side which has the toggle lever pushed forward.

The tissue to be sutured is exposed by using an Endo Grasp instrument. The jaws of the instrument are placed around the tissue to be sutured.

The handles are completely squeezed to close the jaws on the tissue. Once the jaws are fully closed, either toggle lever is activated completely forward or backward (depending on their original position) and the needle is passed from one jaw to the other jaw.

As the handles are released, the jaws open, and the needle is gently pulled through the tissue.

Once the needle has been completely pulled through the tissue, the jaws of the instrument should be returned to the closed, neutral position. The closed, neutral position should be used anytime that the surgeon is pulling the suture through tissue.
**Neutral Position**

The neutral position provides three important advantages.

- First, it allows the jaws of the instrument to be easily inserted into the trocar.
- Second, it protects both needle tips from inadvertently puncturing tissue.
- Third, the neutral position fully supports the needle. If the jaws are not in the neutral position and you pull on the suture, you may run the risk of having the needle bend. You may also risk pulling the needle out of alignment with the empty hole located on the opposite jaw. If the needle is not properly aligned or the needle is bent, the jaws may not close, and the needle may need to be unloaded and retrieved manually.
Loading the instrument

To Load

First ensure that the jaws are in the open position with the metal bars fully extended. The teal toggle levers should be in a forward position and the red indicator boxes should be fully exposed.

If the instrument is not in the ready to load position (i.e., the metal bars are not exposed), follow the instructions to unload the instrument (even if there is no needle in the jaws) to expose the metal bars.

Step 1

Insert the jaws into the single use loading unit (SULU) with the Auto Suture logo facing up.

Press down at the apex of the jaws to ensure that the jaws are fully seated.
Loading the instrument

Step 2

Completely squeeze the handles together with one hand while using the other hand to pull both toggle levers back from the jaws until an audible click indicates that the needle is properly loaded. Note that the red indicator boxes are covered by the black button.

Step 3

Gently press down on the tab located at the top of the SULU. The jaws will release from the SULU. Pull the SULU away from the jaws to unreel the suture from the spool. When using longer lengths of suture, ensure that the suture does not fall from the sterile field. Suture SULUs are offered in 7” and 48”; other lengths can be manually cut.

Test to ensure that the needle is fully seated by passing the needle back and forth between the jaws of the instrument. The instrument is now ready for use. (If the needle does not pass smoothly, unload the needle and reload.)
Unloading the instrument

Step 1

Squeezing the handles together, align the toggle levers with the arrows on the body of the handles.

Step 2

Keeping the handles squeezed together, simultaneously press the two black reloading buttons which are located on the front and rear of the instrument. Slide the buttons forward, exposing the red indicator boxes marked on the body of the instrument.

Step 3

Keeping the jaws of the instrument over a suitable needle disposal site, release the handles and remove the needle.

The Endo Stitch instrument is now ready to be reloaded.
Knot tying techniques — square knot

**Step 1**
Pass the sutured needle through the tissue.

**Step 2**
Lay the suture which extends directly from the needle over the top of the empty jaw.

**Step 3**
Grasp the suture tail with an Endo Grasp™ instrument. Bring the suture tail in between the jaws of the instrument. Close the jaws and pass the needle.

**Step 4a - 4b**
Pull the jaw with the needle back through the loop of suture.

**Step 5**
Cinch the knot with the jaws in the closed neutral position.
Step 6

Return the same toggle lever back into the forward position. The needle should be in the same jaw as in step 4a - 4b (the left jaw).

Step 7

Lay the suture which extends directly from the needle over the top of the empty jaw.

Step 8

Bring the suture tail in between the jaws of the instrument. Close the jaws and pass the needle.

Step 9

Pull the jaw with the needle back through the loop of suture.

Step 10

Cinch the knot with the jaws in a closed position. Repeat steps to place additional throws.
Knot tying techniques — surgeon’s knot square

**Step 1**
Pass the sutured needle through tissue.

**Step 2**
Close the jaws and transfer the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 3**
Lay the suture which extends from the needle over the top of the empty jaw.

**Step 4**
Bring the suture tail in between the jaws of the device. Close the jaws and pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 5**
Pull the jaw with the needle back through the loop in the suture. Close the jaws and pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 6**
Place the empty jaw in the loop adjacent to the tissue. Close the jaws and pass the needle to the opposite jaw.
Step 7
Pull the jaw with the needle back through the loop.

Step 8
With the jaws in the closed neutral position, cinch the knot tight.

Step 9
To complete the Surgeon’s Knot Square, continue with a single throw of the Square Knot.
Knot tying techniques — modified fisherman’s knot

**Step 1**
Pass the sutured needle through the tissue.

**Step 2**
Pick up the tail of suture with the Endo Grasp instrument. Pass the needle to opposite jaw.

**Step 3**
Pull the tail in between the jaws just behind the needle.

**Step 4**
Insert the empty jaw into the loop adjacent to the tissue.

**Step 5**
Pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 6**
Pull the jaw back out from the loop.
**Step 7**
Insert the empty jaw into the loop adjacent to the tissue.

**Step 8**
Pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 9**
Pull the jaw back out from the loop.

**Step 10**
Tighten the knot with the jaws closed and the toggle levers in the neutral position.

**Step 11**
To secure and tie off this Modified Fisherman's Knot, use a single throw of the Square Knot.
Knot tying techniques — tail spin knot (Alternative Square Knot)

**Step 1**
Pass the sutured needle through the tissue.

**Step 2**
Bring the tail in between the jaws.

**Step 3**
Wrap suture tail once around the empty jaw (jaw without needle).

**Step 4**
Pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 5**
Pull the jaw with the needle out of the tail suture loop.

**Step 6**
Cinch the knot with the jaws in the closed and neutral position.
**Step 7**
Bring the tail in between the open jaws (needle in the same jaw as in step 5).

**Step 8**
Wrap the suture once around the empty jaw.

**Step 9**
Pass the needle to the opposite jaw.

**Step 10**
Pull the jaw with the needle out of the tail suture loop.

**Step 11**
Cinch the knot with the jaws closed and in the neutral position.

**Step 12**
To create a Surgeon’s Knot: At step 3 only, wrap the tail suture around the empty jaw twice instead of once.
Knot tying techniques — securing a running stitch

Step 1
Pass the sutured needle through the tissue. Pull enough suture material through the tissue to ensure there is sufficient material to make the run of stitches, and to tie off the knot at the end of the run.

Step 2
Anchor the start point by tying a Square Knot (see p. 11). Run the desired length of stitches.

Step 3
At the end of the running stitch, make the last pass through the tissue close to the penultimate pass. The loop that this last pass forms can be now held up with an Endo Grasp instrument to make a tail for tying off the run.

Step 4
Holding the loop with the Endo Grasp instrument, use this as a tail to terminate the run with a Modified Fisherman’s Knot (see p. 12).

Step 5
Tie off the Modified Fisherman’s Knot using a single throw of the Square Knot.
### Endo Stitch Suturing Devices

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### Endo Stitch Suture Disposable Loading Units — Single Stitch

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