

### Types of Needle Holders

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#### Video Transcript

Needle holders, sometimes called needle drivers, are available in several different styles. One of the main differences relates to the jaws of the instrument, commonly referred to as the beak. Most jaws have a roughened surface to prevent slipping or rotation of the needle. The size of the jaws, however, varies greatly to suit the intended purpose. Needle holders used for suturing heavy fascia or skin in large animals have stout jaws, whereas those used for grasping finer needles to suture small structures like vessels or ureters, have more delicate jaws and slender handles. Gold handled needle holders come with strong, replaceable carbide inserts that reduce the surface wear at the jaw tips, prolonging the life of the instrument. However, keep in mind that carbide is brittle and can crack if the jaws are inappropriately used to twist wire or hold bone. Unlike scissors with carbide inserts, however, the inserts in needle holders can be replaced when worn out.

Another variation among needle holders relates to the handles. To reach deep, remote areas, longer handled needle holders are useful. To learn more about the types of needle holders commonly used in veterinary surgery, please continue to the next part of this module