



Popular Science February, 2013

Page: 20
Section: General News
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 30000
Type: Magazines Science / Technology
Size: 582.02 sq.cms.



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Emmi-dent 6 Ultrasonic Toothbrush

PRICE: \$235
REPLACEMENT HEADS: \$24.95 for two
SYSTEM: Ultrasound via piezoelectric chips
URL: www.emmident.com.au

Ultraclean with Ultrasound

Dental hygiene and decay prevention with the help of piezoelectrics!

Anthony Fordham

Brushing your teeth is what it is, right? Use a soft toothbrush, a toothpaste with fluoride in it, floss the tricky bits and you're done. Well, apparently not.

The "trouble", such as it is, with traditional teeth-cleaning methods is that they rely on micro-abrasives. Essentially, you're sandpapering your teeth to take off all the plaque and living bacteria that cause plaque. And hopefully not scratching up your tooth enamel too much in the process.

Yet even the most fastidious of brushers will either scrub too hard - and damage the teeth - or scrub not enough and leave decay-causing residue behind. Plaque is just the start. After

that comes tartar. Then gum recession, gingivitis, and other nasty stuff.

Sonic toothbrushes have been on the market for a while now, but they use the same fundamental mechanical force to scrape gunk off your teeth. The Emmi-dent 6 Ultrasonic Toothbrush uses a different system to achieve surprisingly good results.

Instead of a rapidly rotating brush head and a motor in the handle, the Emmi-dent uses piezoelectric chips to generate a pulse of ultrasound.

Ultrasound, like regular sound, is a compression wave in the air, but with a wavelength much too high for humans to perceive. The toothbrush uses a relatively low-powered signal - just 0.5 of a Watt. But it's powerful enough to burst the cell membranes of bacteria living in your teeth and dislodge any gunk such as plaque.

Emmi-dent makes a special toothpaste to go along with the brush. The company claims the paste creates "nano-bubbles" which the piezoelectric chip in the brush head implodes, pulling material away from the tooth. The whole thing is designed to pulverise anything sitting on your teeth, without actually damaging the enamel in any way.

Using the Emmi-dent is really weird. Even though the head looks like a brush, you don't actually use a brushing motion. You just hold the head against three teeth for about five seconds. Then move on to the next three teeth, until you've covered the whole mouth. Then rinse.





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It's hugely odd brushing your teeth without actually brushing, and you'd swear blind the brush wasn't doing anything. But after a good rinse the results are surprising: very, very clean teeth.



The biggest bonus? The Emmi-dent system is able to blast through the gaps and fissures between your teeth to dislodge plaque. And that means no more flossing. If you have crooked teeth, you might still need to floss in the really, really tight spaces, but generally those bits of waxy string are history.

Cons to the system include the need to buy the specialist toothpaste online, the expensive brush heads that last three months (a two-pack is \$25), and the way the Emmi-dent doesn't really seem to freshen up the breath the way a traditional, super-minty toothpaste does. Still, there are other solutions for that.

But at the end of the day you're cleaning your teeth by making individual bacteria explode. That's gotta be worth something.