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Calhoun Discovers Half-Pin Secret

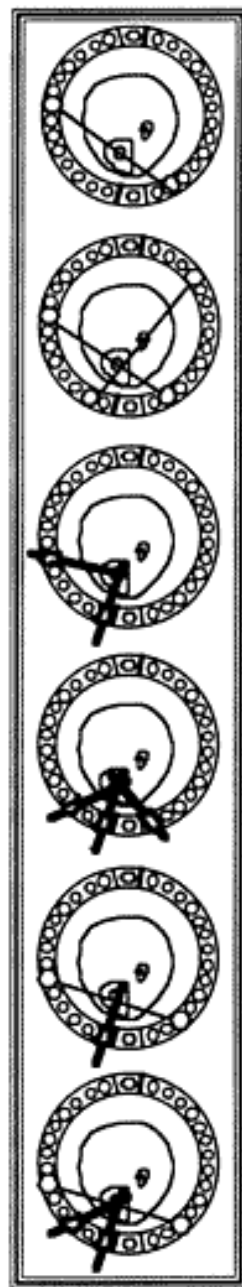
ASAMI president-elect Jason Calhoun has discovered the secret of successful half-pin mountings. Calhoun, recently named head honcho of Galveston's orthopaedic program, studied the mechanical properties of different combinations of pins and wires attached to circular fixator rings. With his co-worker Li, Calhoun measured the displacement of rings secured to bone with one of six mounting strategies: one wire; two 90 degree crossed wires; two 90 degree crossed half-pins; three 45 degree half-pins; one wire and one 90 degree half-pin; one 90 degree half-pin and two half pins.

The researchers plotted the magnitude of displacement against the applied load. They

reported their results at the annual meeting of the Orthopaedic Research Society in San Francisco earlier this year. Using the two 90 degree crossed wire mounting as the standard, Calhoun and Li discovered that the popular "T-Mounting" (one wire and a perpendicular half-pin) is not a very stable configuration.

"Whenever a wire is removed (from a configuration), replace it with two half-pins" Calhoun told a DISTRACTION reporter in San Diego not long ago. "This is the secret of stable half-pin mountings."

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