We have devised a double fixation forceps with tips 5.0 mm apart (Figure 1) for use during radial keratotomy. Each prong has interlocking teeth 0.12 mm in size.

The spread between the tips of double fixation forceps currently used for radial keratotomy varies considerably: 2.0 mm (Perritt), 3.0 mm (Bores), 8.0 mm (Arrowsmith), and 13.0 mm (Kremer). In our experience, 2.0 mm and 3.0 mm forceps are unsatisfactory because they permit excessive lateral movement of the globe, resulting in curved incisions (Figure 2, top). The wider forceps prevent lateral movement, but allow the globe to rotate perpendicular to the plane of the tips (Figure 2, bottom), so that the incision becomes more shallow peripherally.

We have found that the Suarez double fixation forceps (Pilling #42-5805) with the 5.0 mm spread provide good limbal fixation with no lateral or rotational movement of the globe, thereby facilitating the incising of straight radial cuts of uniform depth.