



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

If you only need the buying answer

The honest answer for **Surgical Instrumentation** is split. The cheapest sampled route is used marketplace print, and the cheapest clean temporary route is the 180-day digital edition. The current print listing is not the absolute bottom of the market, but it still sits well below the broader new-print price and below long-term digital access. So if you only need the book for a short window, short-term digital can make sense. If you want a clean copy to keep and use repeatedly in sterile processing, surgical technology, or OR training, the current print copy is still a reasonable ownership choice.

Format	Source	Price	
Spiral bound	Merybook	\$79.98	Check price
Used print market	eBay	\$51.47+	Check price
eText (180 days)	VitalSource	\$58.99	Check price
eText (365 days)	VitalSource	\$75.49	Check price
eText (lifetime)	VitalSource	\$102.99	Check price
New print market	Cengage / retail market	\$142.95	Check price

That pricing means the decision is really about time horizon and condition. If you need the book briefly, digital wins. If you only care about the lowest ownership price and do not mind marketplace uncertainty, used can win. But if you want a clean physical copy without paying full retail new-print pricing, the current print route is still attractive.

What this book actually teaches

A surgical instrumentation book is not just about memorizing names. It teaches recognition, handling logic, setup patterns, classification, and the practical relationships between instruments and procedures. Students have to learn not only what an instrument is called, but what it does, how it is passed, how it is grouped, and how it fits into procedural workflow. That is why these books tend to function almost

like visual-lab manuals rather than ordinary reading texts.

For that kind of learning, print still has advantages. Repeated visual review, page marking, quick lookup, and side-by-side study all matter when students are trying to build confidence around instrument identification and procedural context. A temporary eText can work for a short course, but it is not always the most comfortable format for repeated visual recognition work.

Who should buy, rent, or go digital

Choose digital if this is a short-term requirement and cost control is the main priority. Choose used marketplace print if you want the lowest ownership price and accept variable condition. Choose the current print listing if you want a cleaner copy for repeated lab, OR, or program use without paying the much higher new-print market price.

Sources checked

- [Merybook print listing search](#)
- [VitalSource search for ISBN 9780357625866](#)
- [eBay market search for ISBN 9780357625866](#)
- [General market search for ISBN 9780357625866](#)