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| Priority | User Need |
| High | Must be made of standard medical grade materials. |
| High | Must be cleanable and sterilizable. |
| High | Must withstand a compression force of at least 1000N distributed across the instrument paddles. |
| High | Must apply distraction force that is parallel to the axis of the spine at the site of surgery. |
| Med | Must have a narrow profile to maximize visualization of the surgical site during use. |
| Med | Must have a ratchet system to maintain the applied distraction force without constant input from the surgeon. |
| Med | Must have interchangeable paddles that align with the standard anterior device sizes. |
| Low | Must have a spring that closes / resets the paddles upon release of the instrument handles. |
| Low | Must have a “quick connect” system to attached paddles to the instrument. |
| Low | Must have an impaction handle that can be easily (i.e. using one hand) removed. |