

Simple, Quick, and Inexpensive Maxillary Molar Anchorage

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The preservation of maxillary molar anchorage, either after molar distalization or as an adjunct to bicuspid extraction therapy, remains one of orthodontists' most persistent and troubling technical problems. The following technique reliably maintains maxillary molar anchorage with a minimum of expense.

The maxillary molar bands must have lingual sheaths if the appliance is to be fitted at the chair. While the patient is seated, adapt two .036" wires with terminal loops to fit into the sheaths and meet at the midline (Fig. 1). The use of two separate wires simplifies construction of the Nance appliance, because a single archwire requires passive torque on each side. This means that a single arch usually has to be removed and replaced several times while each side is made passive in relation to the other.

To save chairtime, the two .036" wires can be adapted to the patient's model before the appointment. They will need little subsequent adjustment.

Adapt a small pad of light-cured acrylic (Triad VLC) to the wires and palate, and cure it with a light gun (Fig. 2). The acrylic button will join the two wires and produce a rigid appliance that preserves anchorage for three to six months while the molars stabilize, then remains in place during the cuspid retraction phase.

The appliance can be removed for shaping and polishing by using a three-prong plier to bend the wires slightly away from the palate, thus preventing tissue impingement by the acrylic button. After reinserting the appliance, use the three-prong plier to readjust the Nance button so it again rests lightly against the palate (Fig. 3).

This appliance can also be made with a conventional laboratory technique, by soldering the two wires to the bands (Fig. 4). The plaster should first be removed from the lingual side of the molars with a stone-removing bur. This prevents the plaster from absorbing the heat of the flame and allows the solder to flow faster and at a lower temperature for a smoother, more uniform, and stronger solder joint. □

FIGURES



Fig. 1 A. Two .036" wires with terminal loops. B. Wires adapted to fit into lingual molar-band sheaths.



Fig. 2 Small pad of light-cured acrylic adapted to wires and palate, then cured with light gun.

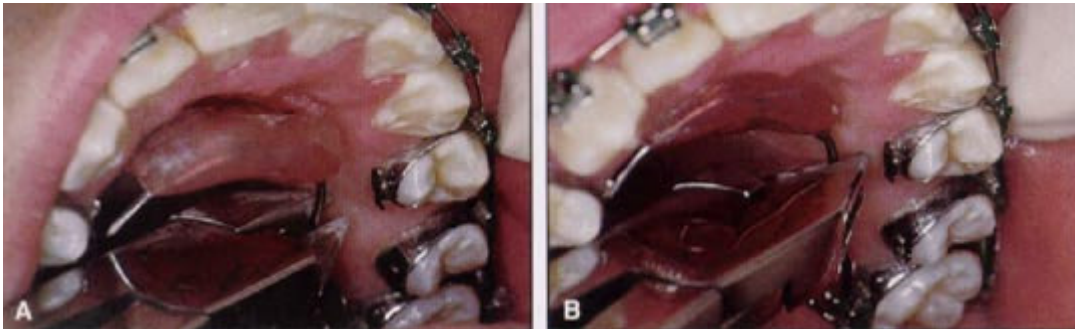


Fig. 3 A. Wires bent slightly away from palate with three-prong plier for removal of appliance. B. Nance button readapted to palate after finishing and polishing of appliance.



Fig. 4 A. Two .036" wires for laboratory construction of appliance. B. Plaster removed from lingual side of molars with stone-removing bur. C. Wires soldered to molar bands.

FOOTNOTES

1 Dentsply International, Inc., York, PA 17405.