

## TECHNIQUE CLINIC Correction of Impacted Mandibular Second Molars

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An impacted mandibular second molar (Fig. 1) can be brought into the arch rapidly and efficiently by using a soldered .036" lingual arch with occlusal rests on the bicuspids and an .036" distal extension ending in an eyelet. The technique is as follows:

- 1. Seat mandibular first molar bands with double buccal tubes.
- 2. Take maxillary and mandibular alginate impressions.
- 3. Fabricate the lingual arch with distal extension (Fig. 2).
- 4. Fit a lip bumper to the cast.
- 5. If necessary, have the impacted second molar surgically exposed.
- 6. Cement the lingual arch in place.
- 7. Bond a plastic button to any exposed area on the second molar, using plastic powder and liquid bonding adhesive (applied with a brush). Although a metal button can be used, I prefer this method because the bonding material and the plastic button fuse to form a cap on any available surface. The button may be quickly removed and rebonded if necessary as the tooth moves toward the eyelet.
- 8. Tie elastic thread between the button and the eyelet for traction (Fig. 3). Begin lip-bumper therapy 12 hours a day for anchorage.
- 9. When the second molar has sufficiently erupted (Fig. 4), bond a buccal tube to it and align it, using the archwire slot of the first molar's buccal tube (Fig. 5). □

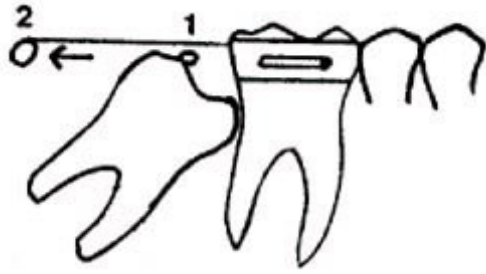
### FIGURES



**Fig. 1** Patient with impacted mandibular right second molar.



**Fig. 2** Lingual arch with distal extension on cast.



**Fig. 3** Elastic thread tied from bonded plastic button (1) to eyelet on extension of lingual arch (2).



**Fig. 4** Impacted molar freed to erupt.



**Fig. 5** Second molar bonded with buccal tube and aligned with archwire through first molar tube.

#### FOOTNOTES

1 TP Orthodontics, Inc., 100 Center Plaza, LaPorte, IN 46350.